

Owl & Spade

Unfolding Transitions
2022

A Magazine for the
Alumni & Friends of
Warren Wilson College



Owl & Spade Magazine

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This porcelain pottery was made using bones from Warren Wilson cattle, part of a Capstone Project by Danika Moody '22, who provided this photo. Learn more on page 19.

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Professor's New Book Examines How to Plan for the End of Our Lives to Protect the People and Places We Love

A Letter From the President



Photo by Sarah Puterbaugh '25.

Dear Alumni and Friends,

“Unfolding Transitions” is the theme for the 2022 *Owl & Spade* magazine. It is fitting that “transition” is a stage in both of the most universal human experiences—birth and death. And between those beginning and ending markers, so very many further transitions unfold for each one of us, and for the communities that we have built.

A recent transition in my life did not unfold as I expected: shortly after I retired from my law practice, Warren Wilson College’s Board of Trustees selected me to serve as Interim College President. It has been one of the greatest honors of my life to serve my *alma mater*, which has given me so much, and to guide this community through a transition of its own as we search for our next President.

It is important to honor and treasure what the College *is* while also embracing what it is to *become*. We cannot afford to slow down. We must keep our momentum to stay ahead of the challenges that are facing all small colleges right now. We must find innovative new solutions while leaning on the strengths that are already intrinsic to our community.

In this magazine, you will read about many of the transitions unfolding on our campus and beyond. You’ll explore how students learn experientially at Warren Wilson from their First Year Seminars to their Capstone Projects, including all of the ways that our learning model is adapting and changing in order to enhance their education. Warren Wilson College graduates don’t say they learned how to do it. They say they’ve already *done* it.

You will find stories about alumni who are advocating for change in our world—through promoting the rights and humanity of people who are or have been incarcerated, through preventing sexual violence and human trafficking, through studying the

impact of climate change in the Arctic, and through increasing representation of marginalized voices in the comic book industry.

You’ll learn how Professor Mallory McDuff’s new book—which examines how to plan for the end of our lives with climate change and community in mind—has changed the Warren Wilson Cemetery. You will also learn the news about our presidential transition, our new Volleyball Team, and the return of *The Echo* student newspaper. You’ll even get a peek at how this magazine has transitioned over the years, thanks to a recent donation of historical issues made to the College Archives.

Our students are passionate change-makers who are dedicated to creating a more just, equitable, and sustainable world. I look forward to collaborating with the Warren Wilson community to further the Mission of the College and to focus our efforts to ensure student success, preparing the way for the next transition in our collective journey.

With Optimism and Gratitude,

Bill Christy '79
Interim President

Profiles



Reginald Dwayne Betts MFA '10

Relevant Role Model

.....

Freedom Begins With a Book



Michelle Padrón '21

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We Keep Us Safe:
Building Community



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Intentional Adventurer

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From Swannanoa to Siberia:
Connecting on Climate Change



Jay Edidin '04

Creative Critical Thinker

.....

Tools We Wish We Had:
Representation in Comics and Beyond



Reginald Dwayne Betts MFA '10 | Relevant Role Model

Freedom Begins With a Book

Profile by Mary Bates

Portrait © John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation—used with permission

When Reginald Dwayne Betts MFA '10 was incarcerated, a book radically changed his life.

“Somebody whose name I didn’t know, another prisoner, laid *The Black Poets*, an anthology of poems edited by Dudley Randall, under my cell door,” Betts said. “It introduced me to poetry in a real way. It introduced me to the poetry of Etheridge Knight, who had spent time in prison and was writing about prison, and so it also introduced me to my subject matter. It allowed me to get some meaning out of the thing that haunts me.”

Now a Yale-trained lawyer, published poet, and recipient of the prestigious MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship, Betts is on a mission to bring the transformational power of books to incarcerated people across the U.S. As the founder of the nonprofit organization Freedom Reads, he builds libraries in prisons.

The group’s name comes from the notion that “freedom begins with a book,” which is their tagline. The libraries are beautifully designed 41-inch curving structures that allow prisoners to access books on both sides. Consisting of a specially curated collection of 500 books, the libraries are purposefully located in housing units where people in prison spend guaranteed time and where there aren’t barriers to access.

“We’re the first organization actually trying to build a physical structure inside of prisons to add dignity, to add beauty, to affirm the fact that books matter and that books can help transform people’s lives,” Betts said.

Collaborating closely with the Department of Corrections and the adults and children who are incarcerated has its challenges. At any given time, the organization is working with dozens of prisons in multiple states, talking with all of the stakeholders, working with fabricators, and building the modules. So far, they have donated 30,000 books to prisoners across the U.S., and they also organize author visits and book circles in prisons and juvenile detention facilities.

All of Betts’ work as a poet, lawyer, advocate, and the founder of Freedom Reads is informed by his years spent in a maximum-security prison after being tried as an adult for a carjacking at the age of 16. After leaving prison, Betts earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Maryland and an MFA in Poetry from Warren Wilson College. He published multiple collections of poetry, and then decided to go into legal advocacy and work toward a Ph.D. from Yale Law School.

Before he published books and pursued the doctorate, though, he said his experience at Warren Wilson influenced his

path in many ways. Awarded a Holden Fellowship, he was able to attend for free.

“My trajectory as a writer so much maps onto my trajectory as a man in the world and as a father. Warren Wilson was important for a lot of those things, and even for the mistakes I made. Warren Wilson was an important part of me resolving and learning to deal with some of those things.”

Betts was one of 25 recipients of the \$625,000 MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship in 2021.

“I’m fortunate. When I got the award, I was already deeply invested in moving forward as an artist and where I wanted to go as the leader of a nonprofit organization that’s thinking differently about incarceration and literature and literacy and the intersection of the three.” ■

Reginald Dwayne Betts MFA '10 is a poet, lawyer, and MacArthur “Genius” Fellow who promotes the rights and humanity of people who are or have been incarcerated. His work is informed by his years spent in a maximum-security prison after being tried as an adult for a carjacking at the age of 16.

We Keep Us Safe: Building Community

Profile by Melissa Ray Davis '02, portrait by Mary Bates

In their short time since graduating from Warren Wilson College, Michelle Padrón '21 has seen both ends of the social work spectrum in Asheville. From providing crisis intervention and support for youth facing houselessness as a Case Manager to *preventing* youth crises as a Sexual Violence and Human Trafficking Prevention Educator, Padrón infuses community-mindedness into everything they do.

During their time at Warren Wilson, Padrón learned through their internship at Verner Center for Early Learning that they liked working with children. So immediately after earning their Bachelor of Arts in Social Work, that's exactly what they did, landing a job as Case Manager at Trinity Place: Runaway and Homeless Youth Shelter—temporary housing for children from 7 to 17 years old.

"I love the moments of joy with those kids, because they were going through really horrific situations, usually," Padrón said. "But watching them run around and build friendships with the other kids and have these moments of joy—with me and then also independently—it was really rewarding to see."

Padrón was on-site as residential staff for 12-hour workdays and also stayed overnight at the house three to four nights a week. They supported the children in every way, from performing assessments and intakes to leading counseling activities with the kids—and sometimes supporting their families as well.

Wanting to give back to their community was what first brought Padrón to Warren Wilson College's Social Work Program as a transfer student from a large state school. And building community was a major theme for them at the College, from organizing with the Alma Shippy Coalition to create the 2020 Black Student Union Demands for inclusive changes on campus, to meeting with members of the North Carolina General Assembly to advocate for a ban on conversion therapy for youth. Padrón's exceptional academics, work, and community engagement earned them the Alton F. Pfaff Cup, Warren Wilson's highest honor.

Padrón said it was their Study Away course to Cuba, though, that solidified their idea of community. "A tenet I live by—which is actually a protest chant: 'We keep us safe'—was really highlighted in Cuba. That's a neighborhood where people keep each other safe, a perfect example of that. That's something I now work toward and keep in the forefront of my work: how do we keep each other safe?"

The work at Trinity Place was very fulfilling, but also very intense, so Padrón started looking for ways to continue their community work in a new direction: prevention.

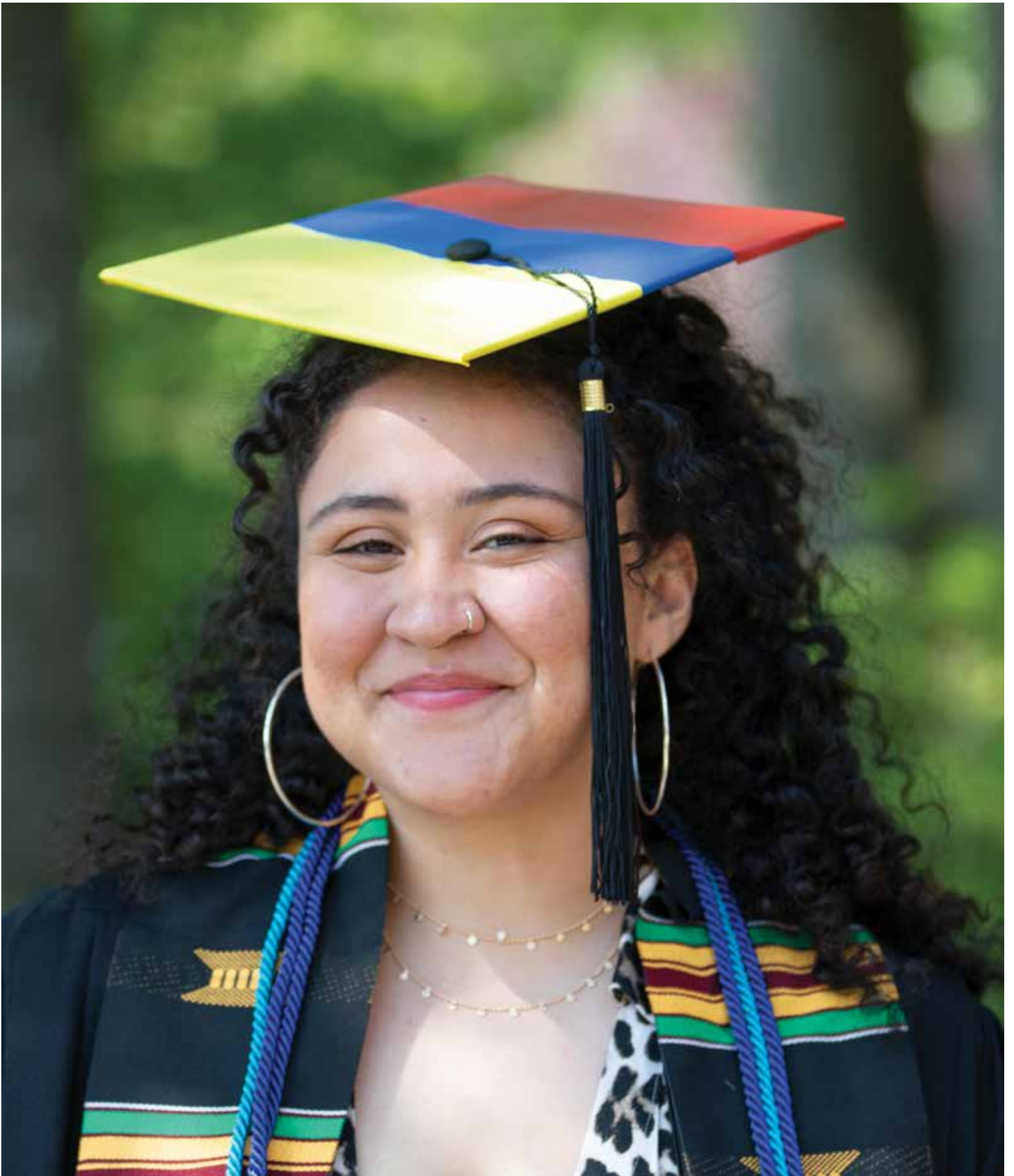
"I could see myself burning out in the future, and I really don't want that to happen," Padrón said. "So I thought it would be best for me

to step away from direct services and do some prevention education work. It feels a little bit less intense, and a little more hopeful."

Following that hope, Padrón became the Sexual Violence and Human Trafficking Prevention Educator with Our VOICE, an agency dedicated to serving individuals affected by sexual assault and abuse. At first, they split their time between the shelter and the agency, but when Trinity Place later closed, they transitioned to full-time work at Our VOICE. In this new role, Padrón develops and presents prevention programs at middle and high schools throughout Buncombe County.

"A big tenet of the work for me is how we can support each other, how we can eliminate violence in our own communities. Because we know our communities the best, more than people on the outside would," Padrón said. "I really stress to the kids, 'Yeah, I have this knowledge, but I don't go to your middle school, I'm not familiar with the culture in the way that you all are.' I'm equipping them with these skills so that they can inform their own community and keep each other safe." ■

After earning last year's Alton F. Pfaff Cup, Warren Wilson College's highest honor for a graduating senior, Michelle Padrón '21 now works as an educator to prevent sexual violence and human trafficking for Our VOICE, an Asheville agency serving individuals affected by sexual assault and abuse.



Michelle Padrón '21 | Practical Idealist



Dr. Susie Crate '82 | Intentional Adventurer

From Swannanoa to Siberia: Connecting on Climate Change

Profile by Jake Frankel '02, portrait by Shana Perry

The tundra of northeastern Siberia is a long way from the Swannanoa Valley, but Anthropologist Dr. Susie Crate '82 said the lessons she learned exploring the Warren Wilson campus have been an ongoing source of inspiration as she has studied the impact of climate change in the Arctic. Her research is at the forefront of examining how changing climate and thawing permafrost affect cultural understandings and adaptation strategies.

Crate has spent the last three decades conducting research in Siberia and, since 2006, documenting perceptions of, and responses to, climate change among Indigenous Viliui Sakha people. Thawing permafrost challenges Viliui Sakha's horse and cattle breeding livelihood as the land rises and falls. Crate documented their many challenges in her 2021 book, *Once Upon the Permafrost: Knowing Culture and Climate Change in Siberia*. She makes the issue relevant to us all by arguing that, metaphorically speaking, "we all live on permafrost."

"I learned a lot at Warren Wilson about how our planet is one interconnected system. So if the permafrost thaws in the Arctic, then we're all in trouble," she explained. "You can say the same thing about all of the harbingers of climate change: floods, droughts, fires, and more."

At Warren Wilson, Crate loved working on the Garden Crew and taking a wide variety of classes, from plant taxonomy to music. She came to Warren Wilson because it was an ideal setting to nurture her creative thinking.

"At Warren Wilson I was given a lot of freedom and personal attention. I learned that I didn't need to fit into a cookiecutter degree or job, that I can explore my own passions in life," she said.

Before pursuing graduate studies in Anthropology, Crate spent a decade working as a singer and storyteller. "At Warren Wilson, I studied how singing and storytelling could educate about environmental issues. Eventually that led to an interest in Indigenous cultures, since narrative is how many cultures teach. Songs often have innate environmental education," she said.

Crate is currently on a Fulbright Arctic Initiative Fellowship to study how permafrost thaw impacts Arctic security issues. Prior, she was the subject of an acclaimed documentary, *The Anthropologist*, which followed Crate and her teenage daughter as they traveled to Siberia, the South Pacific, the Peruvian Andes, and the Chesapeake Bay in the United States. In each place, they interacted with local communities to understand how thawing ice, rising sea-levels, and melting glaciers are impacting daily life.

Crate believes that mitigating the impact of climate change is going to take more than just policy prescriptions.

"When people ask me what we need to do to fight climate change, I say, 'we need to build community.' And a lot of people look at me dumbfounded, and say 'well what about cutting carbon?' And of course that is important, but in order to be able to weather the changes that are already set in place due to rising carbon dioxide levels, we need to support and assist each other," she explained.

The Anthropologist ends with a scene of Crate waving goodbye to her daughter who is driving off to college. In the scene, Crate expresses hope that the next generation will have the gumption to turn things around.

Now, Crate qualified her optimism. "I don't think it can happen if young people aren't given opportunities to cultivate new ideas for how to face these challenges," she said. "In my experience, Warren Wilson is one of those places that really cultivates ways of thinking outside of the box." ■

Dr. Susie Crate '82 is an Anthropologist studying the impact of climate change in the Arctic. Author of *Once Upon the Permafrost: Knowing Culture and Climate Change in Siberia* and star of the documentary *The Anthropologist*, Crate is at the forefront of investigating how changing climate and thawing permafrost are affecting cultural understandings and adaptation strategies.

Tools We Wish We Had: Representation in Comics and Beyond

Profile by Melissa Ray Davis '02, illustration by David Wynne

Jay Edidin '04 has found national success as a writer and editor, working across multiple media formats, genres, and disciplines. But as diverse as his work has been, it all comes down to one practice: telling stories.

“Ultimately, stories are how we interact with the world,” Edidin said. “They’re the difference between knowledge and understanding. They are how we position ourselves and how we locate ourselves relative to other people, relative to the world. They’re how we understand things that we haven’t necessarily come into direct contact with. They’re critical elements of both personal and cultural cartography.”

And Edidin would know. Known as Rachel Edidin formerly, his personal cartography of gender transition later in life has played out in a very public context, deeply informing his work, and serving as the subject matter of his TEDx talk and many national articles.

“In the context of publicly visible work, transition is not exactly a stealth process,” he said. “I still have publications attached to my given name, because I feel that, having specifically worked presenting as a woman in a really, *really* sexist industry, I don’t want to erase the work I did in that context.”

Edidin has worked as a writer and editor primarily in the comic book industry, contributing to dozens of franchises from Dark Horse’s *Finder* to Marvel’s *Thor*. With Miles Stokes '04, Edidin is also Co-Host of the popular podcast *Jay and Miles X-Plain the X-Men*, which has over 20,000 listeners. His reporting, opinion writing, and fiction about comics, art, politics, and pop culture have appeared in dozens of national publications, from *WIRED* to *SYFY WIRE*. His investigative reporting for *BuzzFeed* about sexual harassment in the comics industry was one of the change-making breaking news stories of the #MeToo movement.

Representation and visibility for marginalized groups are a large part of Edidin’s motivation for telling the stories he tells. “You’ve got to make beautiful books for kids, because they’ll look at the world and say, ‘Why isn’t it like that?’ And then they’ll grow up and become revolutionaries,” Edidin said, paraphrasing a Tony Millionaire quotation. “And I think that’s true for adults, too. As powerful as imaginations are, I think you’ve got to feed them. You’ve got to show people the worlds that can be built so that they are able to map their roots to them.”

At Warren Wilson, Edidin worked on the Writing Center Crew, ultimately serving as the Senior Crew Leader. After he graduated, he became Warren Wilson’s first Writing Center Director. “So much

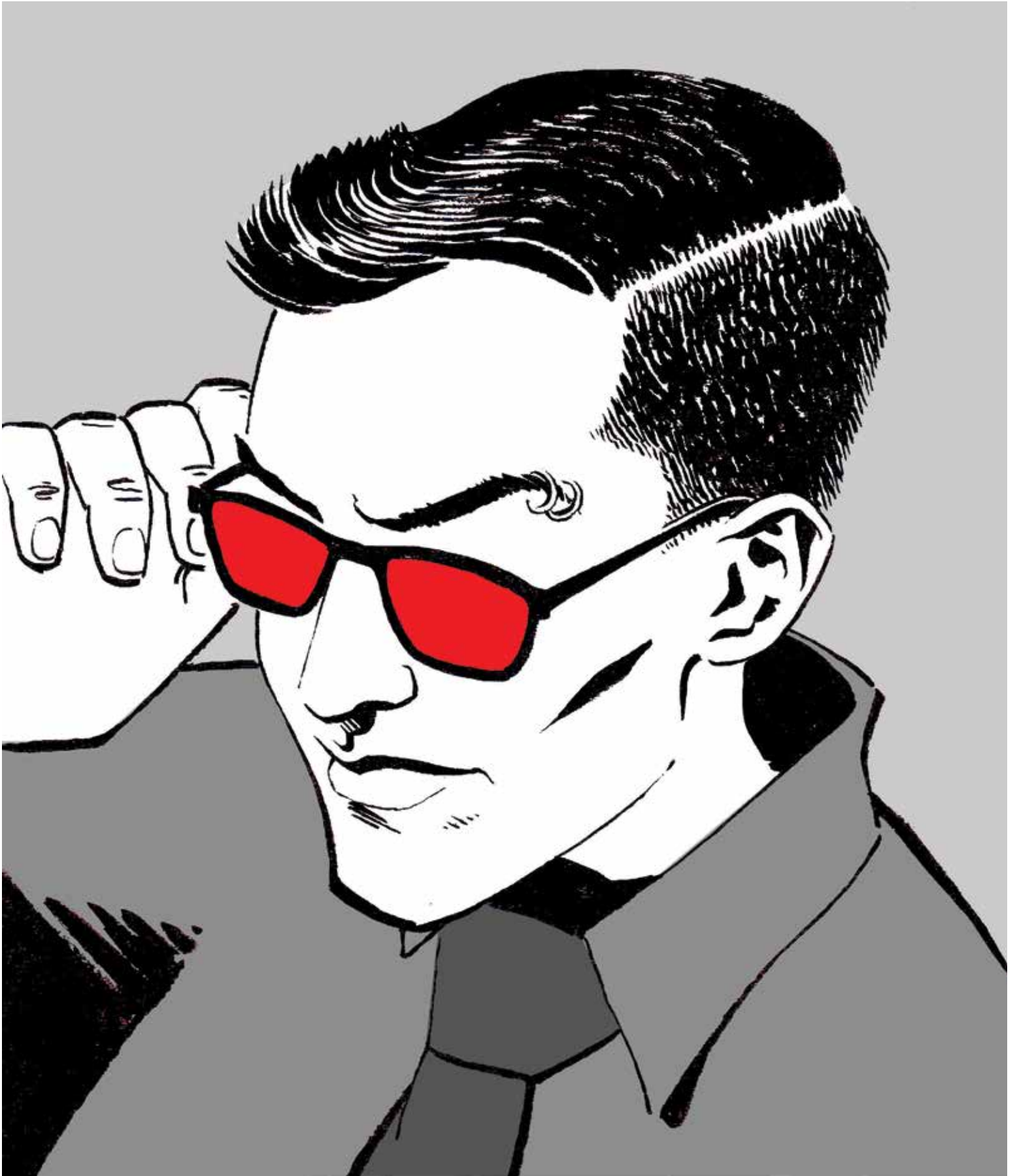
of my ethics and approach as an editor comes from that Writing Center background. And so much of my approach to institutions comes from the subversive empowerment perspective I gained there,” Edidin said. “I feel like it really crystallized a lot of my professional politics.”

Edidin is currently earning a master’s degree in Human Rights at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York (CUNY). His thesis deals with disability rights and is an oral history of the Autistic Self Advocacy Network.

Additionally, Edidin is currently working full time across several writing and editing projects, co-hosting the X-Men podcast, and writing for *The Imagine Neighborhood*, a children’s podcast that teaches emotional resilience skills. With children out of school during the pandemic, *The Imagine Neighborhood* exploded in popularity and won an American Library Association award. Edidin is excited to bring topics like autism, discrimination, and gender identity to children’s programming.

“It’s stuff that I really wish had been around, just in terms of public conversation, when I was a kid,” Edidin said. “The rate at which that conversation has accelerated just over the past decade is heartening, and really exciting! But there’s definitely a tinge of regret in there, in the sense that we’re making the tools that we wish we had had.” ■

For the past two decades, Jay Edidin '04 has written and edited for the comic book industry, contributing to many franchises, from *Finder* to *Thor*. He is Co-Host of the popular podcast *Jay and Miles X-Plain the X-Men*, and his writing has appeared in many national publications such as *BuzzFeed*, *WIRED*, *ComicsAlliance*, and *Playboy.com*.



Jay Edidin '04 | Creative Critical Thinker

Presidential Transition

Bill Christy '79 Steps in as Interim President of Warren Wilson College Following the Retirement of Dr. Lynn Morton

By Mary Bates

Bill Christy '79 is no stranger to the Warren Wilson College community. From graduating from the College in 1979 to serving on the Board of Trustees for 12 years and as Chair of the Board for four years, Christy has been a passionate alum and supporter of the College.

He is also no stranger to filling interim positions at Warren Wilson. During his senior year, at age 22, he became the Interim Director of the Work Program Office when the supervisor left unexpectedly.

Now, following a 32-year career in law, Christy has stepped in as Interim President of the College while the Board of Trustees conducts a search for the next president. He assumed the position May 15th of this year, following Dr. Lynn Morton's retirement.

"It's certainly not a position I applied for or campaigned for, or something I ever saw myself doing," Christy said. "I was approached by the Board once Lynn informed them she was going to retire, and was asked if I was interested in considering it. The more I thought about it, well, if the Board felt like I was the right choice, I certainly would consider it, because of course I love Warren Wilson and am dedicated to it."

Christy grew up in the Haw Creek area of Asheville. Following his graduation from Warren Wilson, he received his MAT-English degree from UNC-Chapel Hill and spent three years teaching in public schools in the Durham area. He graduated with honors in 1989 from North Carolina Central University School of Law and was admitted to the North Carolina Bar. He then attended the University of Florida where he was awarded an LLM in Taxation in 1990. He practiced law in Durham for five years before moving to Black Mountain to found Stone & Christy. He retired from that firm in late 2021.

As Interim President, Christy seeks to build on momentum that is already happening at the College.

"This is not a time when we can lie back or pause," Christy said as he reflected on the progress the College made during Morton's presidency from 2017 to 2022. "My number one goal is to keep doing what we're doing and not to slow down."

During her tenure, Morton and her leadership team created multiple initiatives to increase undergraduate enrollment, including expanding Athletics and entering the process to become a NCAA Division III school. The College introduced two free-tuition scholarship programs to offer greater access to a



Bill Christy '79 (left), is currently serving as Interim President of Warren Wilson College while the Board of Trustees conducts a search for the next president. Here he is pictured walking with Trustees Dr. Andy Scott '75 and Tom Kilday '73. Photo by Susannah Kay.

Warren Wilson education (NC Free Tuition and Milepost One), fostered community relationships both regionally and nationally, and had record-breaking fundraising results year-over-year. The College also launched a strategic plan that resulted in a new mission statement.

Having achieved enrollment growth and increased financial stability in the past five years, the College is in a good position to attract the next leader to take the school to the next level of

excellence. The Board of Trustees began the search for a new permanent president this past summer. They aim to have the new president on campus by or before the fall semester of 2023.

The Presidential Search Committee consists of representation from the Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, and one student. The committee engaged a search firm to conduct and assist in the process of identifying a large pool of candidates.

“We’re moving forward with enthusiasm,” Christy said. “Hopefully the best days are ahead. There are great people here doing wonderful things.” ■

“This is not a time when we can lie back or pause. My number one goal is to keep doing what we’re doing and not to slow down.”

– Bill Christy '79, Interim President
of Warren Wilson College

Warren Wilson Introduces Women’s Volleyball

The Addition of Volleyball Is a Key Initiative for the Athletics Department as It Continues Through the NCAA Division III Membership Process

By Mary Bates

Warren Wilson College has announced it will add Women’s Volleyball as a new varsity sport.

The College has begun a nationwide search for a new Head Coach, who will focus during the 2022–2023 school year to recruit a team and prepare for practice and competition by fall of 2023.

“This is an exciting addition and step as we look to continue to grow our department,” said Robin Martin-Davis, Athletic Director at Warren Wilson. “We are thankful to have an administration that continues to support the initiatives of Warren Wilson Athletics.”

The addition of Volleyball is a key initiative for the Athletics Department as it continues through the NCAA Division III membership process. The College is currently in the second year of the four-year membership process. The introduction of a new team sport helps satisfy NCAA Division III membership requirements and Title IX compliance. Since women’s volleyball is currently sponsored by 433 schools in NCAA Division III, adding it as a team sport shows growth, support for Athletics, and increases the school’s NCAA Division III membership profile.

Women’s volleyball is a popular sport in North Carolina, with more than 500 high school volleyball teams in the state. Asheville is home to two major volleyball clubs, and most Asheville-area high schools sponsor women’s volleyball.

“The popularity of women’s volleyball makes this an exciting addition to the Athletics Department and Warren Wilson College,” Martin-Davis said.

Women’s Volleyball joins Warren Wilson College’s other varsity teams including Men’s and Women’s Basketball, Cross Country, Cycling, Lacrosse, Soccer, and Swimming. Warren Wilson also has active club sports, as well as intramural sports and Outdoor Programs. ■



The Return of *The Echo*

How Two Science Students Transformed the Defunct College Newspaper Into an Award-Winning Publication

By Mary Bates



Environmental Science major Sierra Davis '22 and Biology major Ana Risano '22, who served as Assistant Editor and Editor-In-Chief of The Echo from 2021 to 2022, successfully revitalized the student newspaper into an award-winning publication. The Echo won Best of Show from the North Carolina College Media Association in early 2022. Photo by Sarah Puterbaugh '25.

When Ana Risano '22 arrived at Warren Wilson College as a first-year student in 2018, she never imagined that she would become the Editor-in-Chief of the student newspaper, *The Echo*. First of all, the College didn't even have a student newspaper at that time. *The Echo* had gone on hiatus in 2016 due to the supervisor leaving, a lack of resources, and a lack of interest. And second, though she had always considered herself a strong writer, Risano had come to Warren Wilson College to study Biology.

Now *The Echo* is back, stronger than ever, and Risano counts it as one of the defining accomplishments of her college career. Not only is the newspaper thriving, it's award-winning—landing Best of Show from the North Carolina College Media Association (NCCMA), along with multiple other awards. Risano, together with Assistant Editor Sierra Davis '22, Crew Supervisor Jay Lively '00, and the rest of their team, successfully revitalized the newspaper, publishing their first issue in fall 2020—during the middle of the pandemic.

“They worked extremely hard,” said Quinn Bonney ’25, who served as Design Editor under Risano and Davis’ leadership last year and is one of two Editors-In-Chief this year. “It wasn’t really a job for us. For Ana and Sierra especially, it was a passion project. They put everything they had into it. And it shows.”

Throughout their time on *The Echo*, which was reinstated in 2020 as a club and then as a work crew of 12 students in 2021, Risano and Davis concentrated on investigating complex situations and getting to the root of various conversations, campus news, and student questions.

“I see it as a way for students to use their voices, have their voices be heard,” Davis said, noting that students on *The Echo* are “able to go and interview everyone who is a part of major decisions and get students the information they need to have an informed opinion of what is happening at their school and in the community rather than an inflammatory opinion.”

In addition to reporting on major decisions and campus news, the newspaper covers events, athletics, broader community news, features including a “science corner,” and arts and entertainment. It also provides an outlet for editorials, editorial cartoons, advice columns, horoscopes, and podcasts.

“We want *The Echo* to live on for many years, be a bridge in communication between parts of campus, and help keep our community together,” Risano said. “We’re a student newspaper, for students by students, and we intend to keep it that way as long as possible. We want to be able to give support to campus in the form of news and be a place where someone can come to us with ideas and we can get them out there for them.”

Though both Risano and Davis majored in the sciences (Biology and Environmental Studies, respectively), they said *The Echo* has fit into their Warren Wilson experience more seamlessly than they expected.

Risano previously worked on the Writing Studio Crew, so the transition to Editor-in-Chief, where she was also helping students craft their writing, felt natural. She also worked as a Peer Group Leader, and as a Peer Supplemental Instructor for Chemistry.

“Coming into college I wanted to focus on sciences, and that led me to Biology. But I’ve always had a love for writing, and I wanted to nurture that somehow,” said Risano, whose Natural Science Undergraduate Research Sequence (NSURS) Capstone project looked at how the amount of ultraviolet pigment present in plants is impacted by climate change. “It’s nice to have two sides, doing hard sciences, being in the lab, looking in the microscope, and then also being able to write articles.”

Davis likewise had extensive leadership experience before becoming Assistant Editor of *The Echo*. They served as a student leader of the Construction Crew and worked as a Science Teacher at Talisman, a camp in North Carolina for kids with Asperger’s syndrome, autism spectrum disorder, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. Their NSURS Capstone project studied the correlation between drinking water violations and demographics, including the racial makeup and economic status of the communities being served.

“We want *The Echo* to live on for many years, be a bridge in communication between parts of campus, and help keep our community together.”

- Ana Risano, 2021-2022 Editor-In-Chief of *The Echo*

Now that both Risano and Davis have graduated, a new team of Warren Wilson students are carrying *The Echo* into the 2022-2023 academic year. Current Editors-In-Chief Harley Woods ’23 and Bonney have many goals, including making *The Echo* more transparent and accessible, encouraging student empowerment, and connecting larger global and social issues to Warren Wilson College.

“By sharing knowledge and asking questions, we provide people with clarity on specifically how things are structured, who oversees what, and where the root of change should be focused,” Woods said. “Everyone should feel capable of harnessing the knowledge provided by *The Echo* to use it to their advantage.”

With new leadership, a larger staff, a new crew space, and more resources, Woods and Bonney are excited for the next chapter.

“To have a consistent and current flow of information is important for everyone. That’s why in this day and age, journalism is one of the most important jobs there is,” Bonney said. “Obviously no one can fill Ana and Sierra’s shoes. They’re amazing, and they did a wonderful job. They got the newspaper to a place that is unprecedented in only a year and a half. This year I’m trying to uphold what they’ve done in keeping an authentic public forum for student expression. I’m hopeful for the future of *The Echo*.” ■

To read *The Echo*, visit warren-wilson.edu/owlandspade2022



Quinn Bonney ’25 and Harley Woods ’23 are the 2022–2023 Editors-In-Chief of *The Echo* student newspaper. Photo by Mary Bates.

Investing in Mentorship

Warren Wilson Alum Learns Her Trade from Longtime Trustee

By Erin Pesut '10



The mentorship of longtime trustee and friend of Warren Wilson College Joel Adams (right) changed the life of Erin Hadary '03 (left), setting her on a completely different career path than she had ever imagined for herself. Photo by Sarah Puterbaugh '25.

Erin Hadary '03 takes matters into her own hands. But when Joel Adams reached out *his* hand to offer her an opportunity outside of her comfort zone, the course of her career changed dramatically, and she found an invaluable mentor.

As a Warren Wilson student, Hadary majored in Environmental Studies and started out on the Science Building Crew. While she mopped floors and took out the trash, she listened to books on tape and perused the bulletin boards. One day she came across an advertised Manager position for the College Farm. The next day, she walked down to the Farm Office and said, “I hear you’re hiring. I’d like to be your Farm Manager.”

“When I reflect on it still, I’m not sure that they were looking for a student,” she remembered, laughing. “I think they may have been looking for a more senior person.”

But she had learned that if you prove you’re a hard worker,

opportunities open up. That’s how, as a second-year student, Hadary got the Farm Manager job.

A few years after Hadary graduated, Joel Adams—then a Warren Wilson College Trustee and a Certified Private Wealth Advisor with Raymond James Financial Services in downtown Asheville—was looking to mentor a young professional with potential. He called Dale Roberts, who worked in Career Services at Warren Wilson, and asked, “Who’s one of the brightest minds to graduate in the last five years?” The first name out of Roberts’ mouth: Erin Hadary.

So, Adams called Hadary with an offer. “I have a wealth management firm. I’m looking for help. I’ll teach you the business. Are you interested?”

“Erin didn’t know a thing about our business,” Adams remembered. “But that’s kind of the way I like to hire people. No preconceived notions.”

The way Hadary remembers it, it was a visual of someone literally reaching out a hand. She did not hesitate. She accepted the opportunity.

Adams has a long history of being a natural pollinator: connecting people, linking organizations, and making opportunities happen. He's generous with his time and has served on numerous boards, including Meals on Wheels, The Nature Conservancy, and the Southern Environmental Law Center.

He is also deeply connected to Warren Wilson College. Both of his children are alumni, and he served on the Board of Trustees from 1994 to 2015, including terms as Board Chair from 2003 to 2007 and 2011 to 2012. In 2016 he received the Warren Wilson College Distinguished Service Award, and in 2021 he was named Trustee Emeritus. The Joel B. Adams, Jr., Sustainability Scholarship, in his honor, offers scholarships to Warren Wilson students who major in Environmental Studies or have made outstanding efforts in the field of sustainability.

After Adams hired Hadary, she stepped in as a Client Services Manager. Since financial advising is such a regulated business, there were a variety of security exams Erin had to take—and pass—to move up.

"I showed up as green as you could be," Hadary recalled. "I just had no financial vocabulary. It was all like learning a foreign language."

During the exams, Hadary was a woman in a room of mostly men—most of whom had studied finance. But she didn't back down from the challenge, and Adams' support never wavered. Hadary went on to become a financial advisor, and, with Adams' encouragement, later secured her Certified Financial Planner designation.

Adams' mentorship extended beyond business hours. He taught Hadary the importance of worldwide travel, how understanding economic context on a global scale matters, and how easily philanthropy can become a part of day-to-day living.

Today, Hadary is a Partner with Moneta Group, one of the top 10 independent registered investment advisors in the country. Not only is she a Certified Financial Planner professional, she's also a Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy.

She is proud of the progress she has made. "It wasn't that long ago that women could only be teachers or nurses. I don't know how many female advisors and partners and owners Joel ever saw, and yet, I am one now."

Adams' mentorship set Hadary on a completely different career path than she had imagined for herself. "I'm incredibly grateful to Joel," she said. "I didn't have family who showed me that wealth management was a career path. And he didn't just explain it to me in one 45-minute conversation. He taught me the business over five years. He gave me his time and he gave me his knowledge. There's really no greater gift." ■

Giving Back Through The Bannerman Society



Erin Hadary '03 is the youngest member of The Bannerman Society, which recognizes the generous benefactors who include Warren Wilson College in their estate plans. This can take the form of wills, trusts, and other planned gifts.

According to Hadary, who is a Certified Financial Planner and a Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy, "It's a really easy way to do estate planning and to be philanthropic all at once. If you care about a school like Warren Wilson, or if you care about a nonprofit or a cause that matters to you, a very simple technique is to name them as a beneficiary of your IRA."

To become a member of The Bannerman Society, one must notify the Office of Advancement that the College is in their estate plans.

For more information, please contact the Office of Advancement at advancement@warren-wilson.edu or 828-771-3756.

In Transition: *Seasons on Campus*

Photography Crew Feature

The Photography Crew captures photos and videos to support the Warren Wilson College Marketing Department. Students on the crew develop and improve their skills by taking many different types of photos, including event photography, portraits, candid, and landscapes. This gallery showcases work by the 2021—2022 crew. Photographs 1, 2 & 5 by **Serena Fick '24**. Photographs 3, 4 & 6 by **Sarah Puterbaugh '25**. Photograph 7 by **Ruben Cardenas '22**.







Carlyle Grundon '23 collected fish for her senior Capstone Project, a nonfiction story about fish in the Swannanoa River. Photo by Mary Bates.

From First Year Seminar to Capstone Project

Experiential Learning at Warren Wilson College

By Mary Bates and Melissa Ray Davis '02

W

arren Wilson College graduates don't say they learned how to do it. They say they've already done it. Across their transitions from first-year students to

graduates, students learn experientially. And this experiential education happens not only on work crews and community engagement opportunities, it is infused into every part of students' time at Warren Wilson, from their First Year Seminars to their Capstone Projects.

Fishing for a Creative Writing Capstone

Carlyle Grundon '23 stood knee-deep in the water of the Swannanoa River. She and Dr. Patrick Ciccotto, Instructor of Biology at Warren Wilson College, took turns holding a seine net and using their feet to flip stones and move sediment in order to displace fish on the river floor.

Once the fish were caught in the net, Grundon and Ciccotto placed them in a bucket to identify them and take their photos. They were trapping the fish as part of Grundon's senior Capstone Project, a nonfiction story about fish in the Swannanoa River. On that particular day, they found six different species of fish, from warpaint shiner to fantail darter to largemouth bass.

Prior to coming to Warren Wilson, Grundon admitted, she had not had good experiences with science. She said that in high school, science just never "clicked" for her. She put off taking her General Education science requirement until her junior year at Warren Wilson, when she took *Field and Natural History*, taught by Dr. Ciccotto. In this highly experiential course, she learned to identify over 60 species of wildflowers, trees, insects, birds, and aquatic macroinvertebrates, all found on Warren Wilson's 1,100 acre campus.

Grundon had suddenly discovered that she loved science after all.

"I grew a sense of empowerment," Grundon said. "I really fell in love with what we were doing. I was excited to go to class. We spent almost every day outside. I ended up doing really well in that class because I was able to contextualize what I was learning in a way I had never been able to before."

As a result, she decided to combine her Creative Writing major with her newfound love of science, using writing to make science accessible for more people. She changed her minor to Science Communication and created a senior Capstone Project that would empower her to explore her new passion.

The Confidence That Comes With Doing

From work crew experiences to community engagement, First Year Seminar courses to Capstone Projects, experiential learning is one of the most unique and defining aspects of a Warren Wilson College education.

"There is ample evidence that experiential learning—often represented methodologically through active learning, service learning, project-based learning, study away, work-integrated learning, and undergraduate research—is more engaging and effective for students both in and out of the classroom. Students who experience these forms of teaching and learning are more likely to succeed academically and more likely to report career satisfaction after college," said Dr. Jay Roberts, Provost and Dean of the Faculty at Warren Wilson College and an expert on experiential learning.

To illustrate his point, Dr. Roberts described his experience shadowing two students on the Auto Shop Crew who taught him how to check the brakes on a truck and to operate the power lift.

"It was incredibly inspiring to see them troubleshoot, problem-solve, and think their way through a variety of challenges as they did their work (not the least of which was teaching the Provost how to use a drill!)," Dr. Roberts said. "When I asked them about their majors, they talked passionately about them—Creative Writing and Philosophy.

"This is the best of Warren Wilson College. We are not always, or even often, directly linking experiences on work crews or community engagement with job skill training. Students do pick up skills, but, in the classic liberal arts way, the most powerful outcomes are often more about lifelong learning, teamwork, creativity, and self-confidence. And, it turns out, these are also some of the most in-demand attributes employers are looking for," Dr. Roberts said.

According to the National Association of Career Education, critical thinking and problem solving, teamwork and collaboration, professionalism and work ethic, and oral and written communications are the top four career competencies that employers want—and are not generally finding—in graduates.

A recent survey of Warren Wilson College's Class of 2018 found that 92 percent had a paying job within six months of graduation, while the national average is only 72 percent. 50 percent had a job lined up within a month (national average: 33 percent). But perhaps the most telling statistic is that, compared to only 63 percent nationally, a robust 91 percent of Warren Wilson graduates said that their job is work that they find meaningful.

"While every college or university in the country is working to improve career readiness, Warren Wilson develops these competencies in students from day one," Dr. Roberts said. "To be a national leader in the experiential liberal arts combines the best of all worlds—a creative education, a practical education, a collaborative education, and, ultimately, a revolutionary education—the ability, in the words of educational philosopher Dr. Maxine Greene, to imagine things otherwise and the knowledge and skills to enact lasting and material change."

A Foundation for Civic Identity: First Year Seminars

Students are introduced to experiential learning as soon as they arrive at Warren Wilson. In their first semester, every student is required to take a First Year Seminar course that introduces them to the academic rigor of the College in a way that is grounded in experiential learning, civic identity, and community engagement.

“I see a lot of students coming in with a lot of idealism, but also maybe a lot of anguish about what’s going on in the world,” said Dr. Annie Jonas, Professor and Chair of Education and former Director of the First Year Seminar experience. “To immediately have an opportunity to talk about that and find some skills and knowledge to help take action, that’s exciting to me, and I think it meets our students where they are when they come into Warren Wilson.”

First Year Seminar courses partner with local community or nonprofit organizations and cover a wide range of subjects. Fall 2022’s course offerings include *Fossil Fuels and Energy*; *The Disneyfication of American Culture*; *Music and Meaning*; *A Civil Right? From Math Anxiety to Math Literacy*; and *Gardens: Ecology, Cultural Identity, and Social Change*.

Grundon—the student who captured fish in the Swannanoa River for her Creative Writing Capstone Project—took a First Year Seminar where she worked with third grade students at Isaac Dickson Elementary School in Asheville to create a podcast called *The Truth about Buncombe County’s Issues*. The topics were based on Buncombe County’s strategic priorities, as identified by the County Commissioners: affordable housing, early childhood education, renewable energy, the criminal justice system, and opioid abuse prevention.

The third graders and college students worked together to research the topics, write interview questions, conduct interviews with some of the community’s top leaders, write and edit scripts, and produce the podcast. As with every First Year Seminar, the course explored what it means for students to be active and engaged citizens of their community.

“In the First Year Seminars, students are having these really concrete experiences that they’re able to connect to some of the more abstract ideas we teach in higher education,” said Associate Professor of Education and Director of the Writing Program Dr. Julie Wilson, who taught Grundon’s First Year Seminar. “It teaches Warren Wilson students that their college education is not just about individual learning, it’s also about learning within larger communities. Everything they do is preparing them to be more engaged in their community and to be involved in creating a more just, equitable, and sustainable world. They’re learning for a reason.”

Danika Moody ’22 said the desire to create meaningful change was exactly what she was looking for in a college experience, and through her First Year Seminar, that desire was satisfied immediately. She took *Language Identity in Community*, in which she worked with Spanish-speaking students at Charles D. Owen High School in Black Mountain.

“Coming into college, I wanted to make a connection and make a difference for younger students. It served that purpose immensely,”



Moody said. “It showed me how, now that I was in college, I was getting these tools to make a difference—not only in my own community, but in reaching out to others.”

Dr. Jonas has witnessed how Warren Wilson’s experiential approach to first year programming empowers students to understand themselves in the context of their transition to college and to engage in community appropriately, effectively, and ethically.



Senior Capstone Projects in Action

01 For their Capstone, Business majors *Esther Afrane '22*, *Eliniya Black '22*, and *Demarco Jackson '22* completed an intensive semester-long consulting project with Kitsbow Cycling Apparel in Old Fort, NC. The students worked through a series of assignments, starting with an initial assessment and ending with detailed strategic designs and implementation plans to increase first-time buyers. These Business projects typically involve in-depth assessments of industry and market contexts, appraisals of key issues, evaluations of strategic options, recommendations, and considerations for implementation and stakeholder engagement. *Photo by Mary Bates.*



02 Sociology/Anthropology major *Benjamin Airing '22* studied the Asheville location of the retail store Hot Topic for their Capstone Project. They looked at Hot Topic as a site where White racial identity and subcultural identities merge or interact. They found some of their assumptions about youth seeking a subcultural community subverted through interviews with Hot Topic shoppers and a survey of Warren Wilson students. *Photo by Serena Fick '24.*

03 *Madison Sings '22* graduated with a double major in Environmental Studies and History and Political Science. For her Environmental Policy and Justice Capstone Project, Sings partnered with the town of Black Mountain, NC, to help introduce a stormwater utility fee credit for residents who implement green infrastructure on their property. For History & Political Science, she completed a public policy Capstone Project: a case study with the Friends Committee on National Legislation on how interest groups influence the U.S. democratic system. *Photo by Mary Bates.*



04 Sociology/Anthropology major *Jemma Natanson '22* did her Capstone Project on perceptions of cancel culture and politics of identity at Warren Wilson College. She studied the role that social media and online technology play in cancel culture, specifically within the framework of social capital used to maintain social connections or try to build up one's reputation as a morally sound or superior person. *Photo by Serena Fick '24.*

05 *Evan Woody '22* graduated with a double major in Music and Psychology. For his Capstone, Woody did an experimental study involving musicians, embodiment, and creativity. He had research participants take a walk or engage in an "embodiment" activity, and he measured their creativity before and after by having them compose original music and take a survey. He gave two Capstone presentations: one focused on tools musicians can use to boost and teach creativity, and another explored the results of his research study and embodiment theory. *Photo by Quinn Bonney '25.*

06 *Ruben Cardenas '22* is a Creative Writing major and Music minor. For his Capstone, Cardenas wrote a novel based in the 1700s about a brilliant scholar who suffers from reclusivity and must fight out of his comfort zone to investigate the disappearance of his mentor. He read an excerpt from the novel at the Creative Writing Senior Reading, and he also had a Senior Music Recital. *Photo by Sarah Puterbaugh '25.*

"I think it's a really beneficial way to set students up for success in finding their way and helping them with some of these foundational levels of civic identity," Dr. Jonas said. "They're directly seeing that what they're learning is authentic and meaningful, and it's not just moving them toward a major, it's moving them toward effective action—the ability to be an agent for change."

Story continues on next page.

Holistic Integration of Experiential Learning

Experiential learning has been central to Warren Wilson College's learning model since its founding in 1894 as the Asheville Farm School. And, since that founding, the College has innovated ways to fully integrate experiential learning into all student experiences, both in the classroom and out of it.

"While many schools and colleges have forms of experiential learning including active learning in the classroom, service learning, and project-based learning, at Warren Wilson, we integrate these forms of learning holistically for each student and throughout the four years," Dr. Roberts said. "When these experiences are integrated into students' academic or personal interests, it can be transformative."

In order to further integrate experiential learning throughout students' time at Warren Wilson, Dr. Roberts said, "the key is to create the structures and environment where it happens for every student by design and not by accident."

Over the past several years, the College has moved more intentionally toward this ideal. One step was to create the Center for Integrated Advising and Careers, where Integrated Advising Coaches ensure that every student connects to the experiential learning opportunities that will best help them become who they want to be. In addition to shifting all First Year Seminar courses to an experiential, service-learning format, the General Education Requirements expanded to include Civic Identity Values and Social Justice designated courses.

Another recent change was the creation of the Center for Experiential Learning, which integrates the Work Program, Community Engagement, and Global Engagement into one collaborative space, all reporting to the Provost and housed in the historic Log Cabin.

"By combining these areas under one physical and metaphorical roof in an iconic campus building," Dr. Roberts said when the Center was announced in May of 2021, "the new Center will take advantage of natural synergies and collaborations between community engagement, work, and off-campus study to help make the many experiential learning opportunities for students at Warren Wilson more accessible and more powerful."

Capstone Research: The Culmination of Experiential Learning

The final culmination of a Warren Wilson student's college experience is their Capstone Project. The research work for students' Capstone Projects can sometimes take multiple semesters to finish. "Research" in this context includes the range of scholarship, creative work, and artistic performance that represents students' deep and full engagement in their academic fields of study.

Assistant Professor of Psychology and Director of Undergraduate Research Dr. Cristina Reitz-Krueger said that at many larger undergraduate institutions, only the top honors students get to complete a capstone experience. But at Warren Wilson, every student must complete a Capstone Project—it is required to graduate.

The Capstone Carnival in May and the Winter Showcase in December were developed as an institution-wide celebration for students to share their Capstone Projects and research. Dr. Reitz-Krueger noted that these celebrations are also incredibly valuable for the students whose Capstone Projects are still ahead of them, "to see what's possible, to see what they can do—not just what they *have* to do, but to see the opportunities that are available to them."

And the possibilities for Capstone Projects are truly wide-ranging.

Biology major Bria Scott '22 researched the correlation between tea brewing times and antioxidant levels for her Capstone. In particular, she looked at cerasee, an herb common to her home country of Jamaica. Her research showed that longer brewing times increased antioxidant levels, though an ANOVA test showed no significant correlation (possibly due to the small size of her sample). She wants to do additional research and study the antihypoglycemic agents in cerasee that could help people with diabetes.

For his Capstone Project, Art major Jeremy Epstein '22 created a massive installation that filled up the entire back wall of the Holden Art Gallery, along with other wood, steel, and foam art pieces. Epstein worked on the Fine Woodworking Crew, and he said wood stands apart from all other mediums for him. "Once a piece of a block of wood is removed, there is no going back," he said. "I get satisfaction in subtractive methods of making."

Capstone Projects and other research at Warren Wilson frequently involve working with a Community Partner. In one of her initiatives as Director of Undergraduate Research, Dr. Reitz-Krueger is expanding and organizing Warren Wilson's capacity for community-engaged research.

"I teach *Research Methods*. And I love *Research Methods*—I'm super passionate about it. But I am also aware that it's one of the most hated classes. I think that's because students often don't realize the potential for taking those skills and helping Community Partners, or solving real world problems," Dr. Reitz-Krueger said. "I want to help students see that there are exciting real-world applications for research as well, so that the whole concept of doing research isn't as scary. It becomes this exciting prospect, and not something that you have to suffer through to graduate, or that is only for folks who are going on to get their Ph.D.s."

As an example of community-engaged research in action, Dr. Reitz-Krueger explained a recent project that four students completed at Hinds' Feet Farm, an organization dedicated to serving people living with traumatic brain injuries. Hinds' Feet Farm had several years' worth of data that they had collected in quarterly quality-of-life surveys of their participants. But it was boxes and boxes of paper surveys, with no way to organize the data or analyze it.

Thanks to a Bonner Grant that Associate Professor and Chair of Psychology Dr. Jen Mozolic wrote, Cara Bridgman '22, Paula Castellanos '24, Andres Escobar '23, and Kenia Romero '23 were each able to spend a semester working at Hinds' Feet Farm, first entering all of the data into a database, and then organizing and analyzing the data while working with Hinds' Feet Farm to determine what information would be most useful.



For her Art—Sculpture and Ceramics Capstone Project, Danika Moody '22 created porcelain pottery using bones from Warren Wilson cattle. Her process was research-oriented and experiential, from cleaning and documenting the bones, to firing them into finely powdered calcined bone ash, to testing different clay recipes. Photo by Mary Bates.

In the end, the organization was able to “show a stability in time of quality of life with these patients, some of whom had very severe traumatic brain injuries,” Dr. Reitz-Krueger said. “They said, ‘In many ways, quality of life tends to decline, but the perception of those folks is that it is staying stable while they’re in the program.’ That is exciting!”

Putting It All Together

Moody, the student who worked with Spanish-speaking high school students in her First Year Seminar, combined many different programs of study and experiential learning opportunities into a holistic, interdisciplinary educational experience at Warren Wilson. She double majored in Sociology/Anthropology and Art.

For her Sculpture and Ceramics Capstone Project, Moody created porcelain pottery using bones from Warren Wilson cattle. She was inspired by the farm-to-table movement, and the desire to eliminate waste and develop connectivity to the land. She had completed much of her Community Engagement requirements volunteering at Loving Food Resources, a food pantry in Asheville.

“I did a couple of different things before I found that I liked working at food pantries,” Moody said. “It’s that immediate connection, that immediate gratitude. I felt like I was making a difference rather than similar things, where I knew I was making a difference, but it wasn’t feeling very immediate or hands-on.”

But where did the bones come in? Moody had easy access to animal bones from her work on the Biology Research Assistant

Crew, where she was responsible for collecting, cleaning, and prepping skeletons of animals for teaching aids. She applied these skills to her Art Major. Her process was research-oriented and experiential, from cleaning and documenting the bones, to firing them into finely powdered calcined bone ash, to testing different clay recipes.

Simultaneously, she used this hands-on knowledge of interdisciplinary work from two very different fields to inform her Capstone for her second major in Sociology/Anthropology, which examined interdisciplinary education at Warren Wilson.

Moody said that experiential learning at Warren Wilson helped her learn about herself and her capabilities. Sometimes that knowledge came from unexpected sources. She studied abroad twice in two different faculty-led courses: first in Italy, studying art history and ceramics, and then in France, studying climate resiliency.

“It was so encouraging,” Moody said of the course in France. “Talking about the climate crisis, it’s depressing: you either get enraged or get depressed. But it’s so encouraging to go to these places and see the people who are doing these things, fighting for the cause.”

From First Year Seminar through to Capstone, Warren Wilson College’s experiential learning model empowers students to *become* those people fighting for causes. Graduates leave the College with more than just a degree—they leave with the confidence that comes with experience. After graduation, they are ready to be change makers because they have already *made* change. ■



The Owl & Spade

Through the Generations

The *Owl & Spade* originated nearly 100 years ago at the Asheville Farm School, the precursor to Warren Wilson College. As the College has evolved, so has the *Owl & Spade*. A recent donation gives a glimpse into how our College magazine looked decades ago.

NJ Freeman Davis, the daughter of the late Dorothy “Dot” Smathers Freeman ’50 and Norman “Jack” Freeman ’49, honored her parents by gifting their collection of historical *Owl & Spade* publications to the College Archives earlier this year.

The Freemans’ magazines are dated between 1948 and 1960, when the *Owl & Spade* was published quarterly. They are time capsules, preserving our history at specific moments. Our editorial team was delighted to review these magazines and to share these images with our wider community. ■

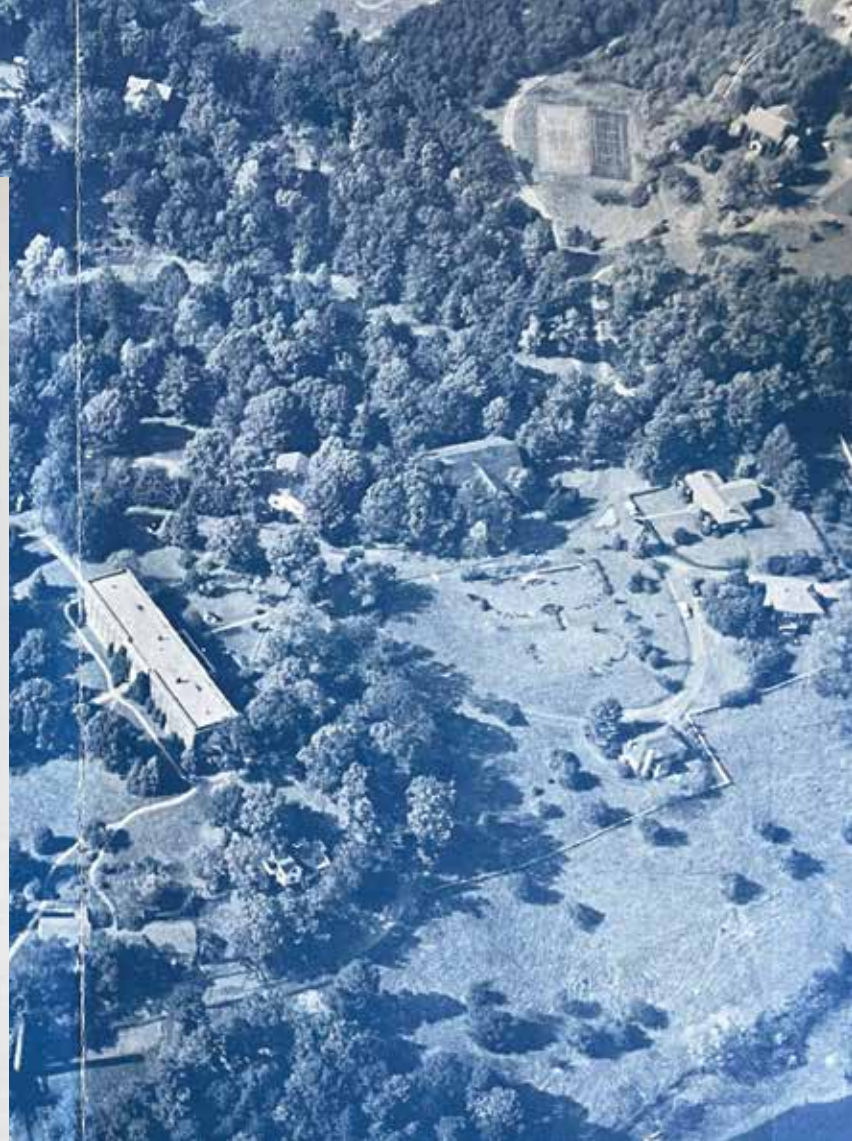


The High School Class

Year	Name	Year	Name	Year	Name
46-49	FRANCES AGER <i>Black Mountain, N.C.</i> International Relations Club.	47-49	INOGENE DRINNON <i>Boydville, Tenn.</i> Basketball; Singing Games; Student Council; Christian Fellowship Cabinet; Softball.	47-49	ERNST LAURSEN <i>Spartanburg, N.C.</i> Football; Basketball; Baseball; Tumbling; Tennis; Christian Fellowship Cabinet; Debates; Athletic Committee; Social Committee; Senior Play; Class Treasurer.
48-49	ROBERT BARNHILL <i>Gastonia, N.C.</i> Christian Fellowship Cabinet; Baseball; Tumbling; Choir; Senior Play.	47-49	ERIC HOKK <i>The Hope, Holland</i> President Dramatics Club; Student Council; Summer Christian Fellowship Cabinet; International Relations Club; Senior Play.	47-49	BOMER LONG <i>Fork Mountain, Tenn.</i> Student Council.
47-49	ROBERT CALDWELL <i>Asheville, W. Va.</i> Choir; Band; Brass Ensemble; Cheer Leader; International Relations Club; Debates.	43-49	EDGAR HOWELL <i>Lenoir, N.C.</i> Football; Basketball; Baseball; Student Council.	48-49	ARIS LUTTIK <i>Hilberon, Holland</i> Choir; Dramatics Club; Christmas Play '48; International Relations Club; Tennis.
45-49	WILLIS ANN CAPPS <i>Hix Springs, N.C.</i> Band; Singing Games; Tumbling; Softball; Secretary; Science Club; Senior Play.	45-49	CLARETHA JENKINS <i>Ferris Beach, Fla.</i>	46-49	JAMES MCKENZIE <i>Pinebluff, N.C.</i> Christian Fellowship Cabinet; Choir; Football.
47-49	JENNIE CHU <i>New York, N.Y.</i>	47-49	GEORGE KIPP <i>Spartanburg, N.C.</i> Football; Tennis.	46-49	MARIE MYSINGER <i>Greenville, Tenn.</i> Choir; String Ensemble; Junior Music Society; Christian Fellowship Cabinet; Singing Games.

6

THE OWL AND SPADE



Like the current Owl & Spade, issues from the 1940s-1960s featured campus news, alumni updates, and original artwork. Clockwise from left: part of a class photo from the Summer 1949 issue; an aerial image from the back cover of the Spring 1959 issue; and a Music Department performance of H.M.S. Pinafore featured in the Winter 1961 issue. On the next page is a hand-drawn campus map that comprised the cover of the Spring 1957 issue.

Remember



HOMECOMING IN OCTOBER

ALUMNI PARTY, NEW YEAR'S EVE



Founded 1894

THE ALUMNI ISSUE

SPRING OWL AND SPADE 1957



ane's Pinnacle Rocky Knob Craggy Cedar Cliff Watch Knob Four Brothers Swannanoa Mts.

Beetree Valley Rainbow Ridge To Swannanoa

Hilltop Mitchell Swimming Pool

Gymnasium St. Clair House Murden Infirmary

Steps To Swimming Pool Laundry and Heating Plant Carson Hall (Administration)

Sunderland Hall Burch Library College Press College Store

Elizabeth Williams Chapel Dodge Cottage Spidel Hall To Farm

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WARREN WILSON COLLEGE



Mourners process to the gravesite at Carolina Memorial Sanctuary, a conservation burial ground in Mills River, NC. Photo courtesy of Carolina Memorial Sanctuary.



Final Transitions: Professor's New Book Examines How to Plan for the End of Our Lives to Protect the People and Places We Love

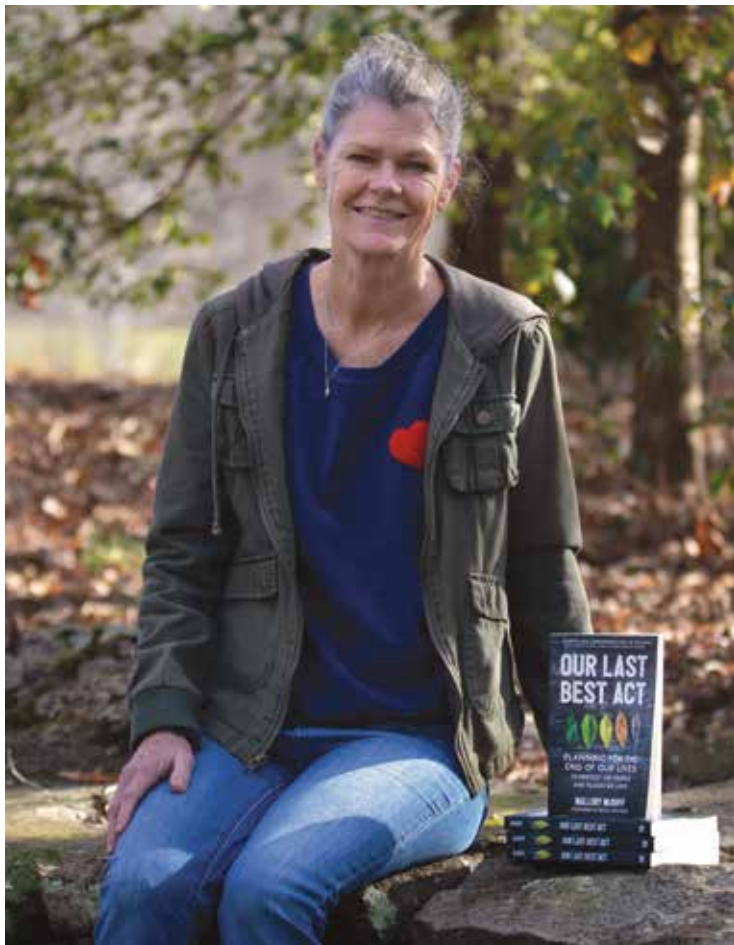
By Mallory McDuff, Ph.D., Director of Environmental Education and Professor of Environmental Studies and Outdoor Leadership

After her parents' sudden deaths, Dr. Mallory McDuff took a one-year journey to revise her final wishes with climate change and community in mind. What she discovered about sustainable end-of-life practices changed not only her death plans, but also her life and her wider community.

Life From Death

I almost canceled our field trip to the cemetery.

In the cold, drizzling rain, one student arrived to class wearing Crocs without socks. It was the end of the semester in early December—the students had papers to write, and I had papers to grade. But I wanted my Environmental Education students to witness firsthand how death isn't only a personal loss. The way we take our leave of this Earth has consequences for the climate and communities.



*Mallory McDuff, Ph.D., Director of Environmental Education and Professor of Environmental Studies and Outdoor Leadership, at the Warren Wilson Cemetery. McDuff's book *Our Last Best Act: Planning for the End of Our Lives to Protect the People and Places We Love is an exploration of Earth-friendly options for end-of-life choices.* Photo by Mary Bates.*

So I unlocked the van, and the students piled in, the last one riding shotgun. In preparation, they had read an essay about Carolina Memorial Sanctuary, the conservation burial ground we were visiting that day in the nearby town of Mills River. That chilly afternoon, we walked past the mounded graves as Director of Cemetery Operations Cassie Barrett '08 shared stories of the dead and explained the ecological restoration of the wetland around us. For my book, *Our Last Best Act*, I would later volunteer at this cemetery where the land is protected from development in perpetuity through conservation easements with a local land trust.

Unlike conventional cemeteries, conservation burial sites look like nature preserves, with walking trails and native plants, rather than manicured grass and concrete vaults underground. During our tour, I scanned our group for signs of hypothermia, just in case. We gathered in a circle after returning to the van, and one student spoke up: "Today has been the most I've talked about death and dying in a long, long time."

Their responses on the final exam revealed even more detail: "I lost two really important people since coming to college," one wrote. "I wished that I could have buried my grandfather and my best friend in a similar place to this. It turns something painful into something beautiful and alive. It broadened my understanding of how important the land can be, in this case as a way to honor the deceased."

An Exploration Propelled by Sudden Loss

In ways I couldn't have predicted, my students and the College became an integral part of *Our Last Best Act*, the story of my one-year journey to revise my final wishes with climate change and community in mind. This narrative in Western North Carolina evolved within a national and even global movement for more sustainable end-of-life choices in a warming world. Within that context, I looked for answers to the question: What can I do to align my values in life with my eventual death?

It was my parents' sudden deaths in my hometown of Fairhope, Alabama, which prompted my exploration. One month after my mother, 58, was hit and killed by a teen driver while she was cycling, my father gathered his adult children to read the two-page directives for his own funeral: a pine casket, shovels so that young and old could close the grave, and his bluegrass gospel band at the cemetery, playing timeless tunes like "I'll Fly Away." He wanted what would become known as a green or natural burial, without embalming or a vault to line the grave and using biodegradable materials, much like at the conservation cemetery.

"I'd like to make my own casket," he told us, "But I've asked my friend Jeff to build it if I can't for some reason."

The level of detail felt oppressive to me. If I leaned toward Type A, my father was a solid A+. But I figured this planning, akin to his preparation for thru-hiking the Pacific Crest Trail, was his way of grieving after the loss of his lifelong hiking partner, his wife.

"We'll do everything on the list," I said, assuming a time frame in the distant future.

Two years later, however, I got a call from my sister while I was cooking dinner in my 900-square-foot duplex, where I live on campus with my two daughters with a view of the White Barn and Night Pasture.

The unthinkable had happened. Biking to the farm where he volunteered, my father, 63, had been hit by a teen driver and killed.

The time had come to use his plan. In my shock, those details both grounded and propelled me. At the local funeral home, my sister and I lifted his body, wrapped in my mom's linens, into the pine casket. After an overnight vigil at our Episcopal church, the friend who built the casket drove it in the back of his pick-up truck to the neighborhood cemetery, where my oldest daughter and her cousins helped to shovel dirt into the grave to the tune of "Will the Circle Be Unbroken."

From Aquamation to Body Composting

Fast forward 15 years: I hadn't looked at my own final wishes for cremation since my children were young. I found the documents in a filing cabinet in my bedroom. I had forgotten about the post-funeral party I'd planned with beer and barbecue from Okie Dokies, a nearby restaurant that promises "swine dining." Flame cremation had seemed an affordable and accessible choice, both appealing factors for me as a single mother teaching at Warren Wilson College.

But since I'd documented my directives, my children had grown from toddlers to teens on this campus, and my hair had turned a soft gray like my mother's. During that time, I'd learned about more sustainable choices for our bodies after death, such as Carolina Memorial Sanctuary.

The choices, it turns out, are more diverse than simply burial versus cremation. During my one-year journey, I interviewed funeral directors about aquamation, a form of cremation available in 22 states that uses water and lye, rather than the fossil fuels needed for flame cremation. Indeed, Archbishop Desmond Tutu chose aquamation for his body before he died in late 2021.

In addition, I spent time at the forensics osteology lab of the body farm at Western Carolina University, where individuals can donate their bodies for the study of decomposition. (In contrast, body donation to medical research often requires embalming.) Research at Western Carolina actually contributed to the science behind body composting developed by the company Recompose in Seattle, Washington. This process, also called human composting or natural organic reduction, is approved in Washington State, Oregon, Colorado, and Vermont, with initiatives to introduce the practice in other states. With the help of local death-care providers, I attended home funerals, interviewed end-of-life doulas, and explored local options for green burial.

Most importantly perhaps, I talked about each choice with my daughters, especially my youngest Annie Sky, who was 14 at the time. My older daughter was studying at Berea College in Kentucky.

“You want to put your naked body on the ground and let students study it decomposing?” Annie Sky asked when I returned from my visit to the body farm. “No thank you!”

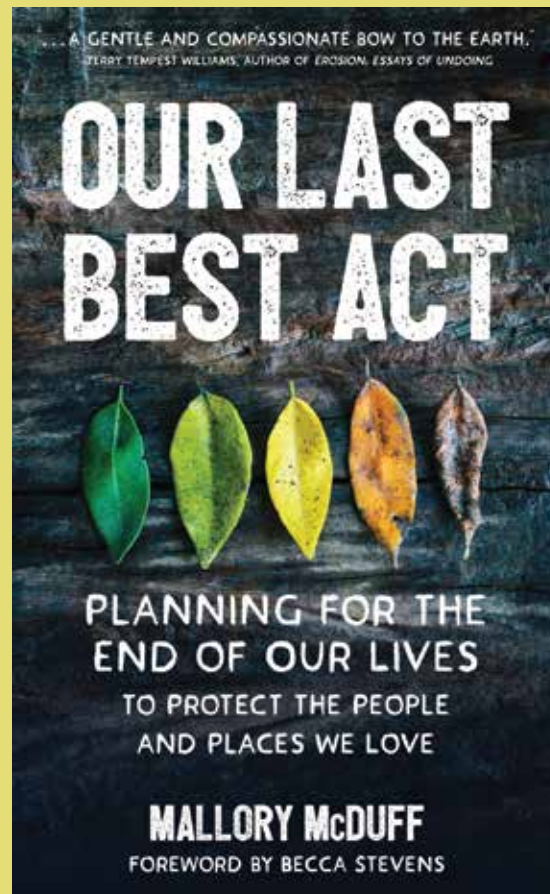
Advocacy for Green Burials at the Warren Wilson Cemetery

The biggest surprise I discovered during my research was less than a mile from my house, a burial site I had not visited in the 20 years I’d lived on campus: the Warren Wilson Cemetery. I had run almost every day on the campus trails and driven past the graves where so many of our College leaders were buried. Since the tombstones lie flat to the ground, it was easy to miss the small cemetery adjacent to the pastures where cows often graze. This seemed like a perfect spot—on land so close to my home—but I didn’t know if green burial was allowed there.

The Rev. Dr. Steve Runholt, Pastor of the Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church, took me on my first official tour on a bright blue summer morning when the air smelled fresh like earth. When we arrived, I saw three older men, the Presbyterian Trustees of the cemetery, including Ray Stock—a retired Math Professor who’d maintained the grounds for years, he told me, because he’d owned a lawn mower. The Church owns and manages the small burial ground on campus.

The three Trustees, Ray, Bill Sanderson, and John Laney, were digging a small hole for an interment of ashes that would take place the next day. As we chatted, I learned that the cemetery required concrete vaults, whose primary purpose is to keep the ground level for landscaping. Yet there hadn’t been a burial of a body in at least five years, according to Steve, as more than half of the U.S. population now chooses flame cremation.

As Ray could recall, the only recent burial without a vault had been Sheriff Disu ’06, a Muslim student I had known who’d been buried in a shroud following Islamic religious beliefs. And so began my campaign—sometimes a dialogue, often a debate—between me



How Do We Align Our End-of-Life Choices With Our Values?

In a world experiencing a climate crisis, Warren Wilson Professor and environmentalist Dr. Mallory McDuff takes readers on a personal journey to discover sustainable practices such as green burials, aquamation, body farms, conservation cemeteries, home funerals, and body composting.

“Freedom lives within these candid and composed pages. *Our Last Best Act* is a gentle and compassionate bow to the Earth. Let our decomposition be our resurrection.”

— Terry Tempest Williams

To purchase signed copies of the book through Malaprop's Bookstore, visit warren-wilson.edu/owlandspade2022

Conventional End-of-Life Practices: Environmental Impacts & Alternatives

Conventional burial refers to burial of a body with embalming, a concrete vault, and often materials like exotic woods or metals for the casket.

— Conventional burial requires the production and transport of 104,000 tons of steel, 2,700 tons of copper and bronze, 1.6 million tons of concrete, 1.6 million gallons of formaldehyde in embalming fluids, and 20 million board feet of hardwood each year in the U.S. In addition, it often costs thousands of dollars more for the consumer than green burial and uses herbicides to maintain landscaping.

Flame cremation creates less of an environmental impact than conventional burial, but it burns fossil fuels to produce temperatures of at least 1400°F for several hours and releases greenhouse gas emissions and pollutants such as mercury and dioxin.

MORE SUSTAINABLE ALTERNATIVES:

Green burial refers to burial without embalming, a vault, or non-biodegradable material for a casket or shroud. Green burial can happen in a conventional cemetery, a natural burial ground, or a conservation cemetery that protects the land in perpetuity.

Aquamation (or alkaline hydrolysis) is a type of cremation that uses heated alkaline water, rather than fossil fuels, to decompose the body.

Human composting transforms the body into organic material that can be used as compost.

Body farms, such as the one at Western Carolina University, accept body donation for the study of decomposition.

Adapted from Our Last Best Act, 2021.

and Ray, whose loyalty to the way things had been done meant he wasn't changing the cemetery contract on his watch.

At his house, he showed me the yellow poster board with the names of those who'd purchased plots. But he wasn't convinced about the efficacy of removing the requirement for vaults, which meant a green burial wasn't possible.

Seeking an Exception

I didn't intend for this story to end on a Zoom call with four men, but that's what happened. During our past discussions, I'd asked the cemetery Trustees for a one-time exemption to the requirement for a vault, based on my religious belief as an Episcopalian to care for creation.

"You've got quite a man cave there, Bill," Steve said, as we gathered for our virtual meeting with the Trustees during the first pandemic summer of lockdown. The background behind this retired science teacher was a compound bow, antlers, and books. Bill's wife Diana worked as the Archivist at the College Library at the time.

"Here comes John," said Bill, as a black box appeared on the screen.

"We can't see you, John, but you can hear us!" Steve said. "Wait, here's Ray!" We could see him but not hear him.

"Unmute your mic, Ray!" Steve said, while I had gut-wrenching flashbacks to online teaching that spring.

After Steve began the meeting, I summarized my request for an exemption and answered questions about maintenance of the grounds without a vault. In conservation burial sites such as Carolina Memorial Sanctuary, the land isn't mowed, but the Warren Wilson Cemetery needed landscaping, much like the local cemetery where my parents were buried without vaults.

After almost an hour of questioning, we'd established that Sheriff's gravesite had not required additional maintenance, even without the vault, but Ray was not budging. As the elder at age 86, he seemed to hold the decision-making power. We'd come to an impasse when Steve suggested we let the committee convene for their deliberations.

"Why don't we go to the cemetery to talk about it," said Bill. "We could keep our distance."

To my surprise, Ray chimed in. "I could go right now," he said.

"I gotta get my shoes on!" said John, from his black box.

As soon as I closed my laptop, Steve called me at home.

"Ray's never going to approve a green burial," I said.

"There are cemeteries that are more inclusive and accepting of different spiritual practices," he said. "It's just sad we're not one of them yet."

The next day, I got a voicemail from Steve: "The Trustees made a decision," he said. "They actually voted *not* to grant a one-time exemption."

I sighed, disappointed, until he continued. "But they voted to *change* the policy. The committee is going to allow natural burial for those who want to minimize their environmental impact in the Warren Wilson Cemetery. This is the right thing to do. It's right for our community."



Above: The Warren Wilson Cemetery, pictured, is prominently featured in Dr. McDuff's book. The cemetery includes graves of many people who were influential to the College's history, including former President Arthur Bannerman and former Dean Henry Jensen. Below: This memorial stone was placed in the cemetery in honor of former Mathematics Professor Ray Stock, who was a Trustee of the Warren Wilson Cemetery and maintained it for decades. Photos by Mary Bates.

Then he took a deep breath: "You are good to go, as it were! And when I say 'good to go,' I mean that figuratively, of course."

Matters of Life, Death, and Earth

About a month later, Steve emailed me with sobering news: Ray had taken a precipitous downturn due to cancer. He wasn't expected to make it to the end of the week. It was the end of that first summer of the pandemic. My daughters and I had barely left campus. The 2020 election loomed. While I worried about Ray, I also wondered if the unofficial database of the cemetery—that yellow poster board—might get lost in his house. But Ray had asked the College Archivist to digitize the names and plots to preserve the information, even as we transitioned to burial practices that were better for this valley.

Weeks later, I learned Ray had been the Trustee to propose changing the policy during that pandemic meeting at the burial grounds, in an unexpected plot twist that surprised us all. Soon after his death, his family set up a fund in his name to maintain the Warren Wilson Cemetery.

Cassie, the Director at Carolina Memorial Sanctuary, and I began to brainstorm about our shared vision of training students in green burial practices as a way of expanding their skills to protect the land on campus and beyond. Our students should recognize the diversity of options—aquamation, green burial, human composting, body farms, home funerals—as more sustainable end-of-life decisions and as a growing movement with jobs that steward the land and

communities. Indeed, one of my former students, Ben Gordon '19, now works at Carolina Memorial Sanctuary as a land steward.

In the beginning of this story, as I took my students to the conservation burial ground, I'd asked, "What can I do?" But in the end, the bigger question became, "What can we do together?" The people and the places of Warren Wilson College, once again, taught me more than I'd imagined about matters of life, death, and Earth. ■

*This essay has been adapted from **Our Last Best Act: Planning for the End of Our Lives to Protect the People and Places We Love** by Mallory McDuff (2021, Broadleaf Books).*



ENDOWED FUNDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

More than 85 percent of Warren Wilson students receive need-based financial aid to attend Warren Wilson College. Students graduate curious, confident, and capable because of their academic endeavors integrated with complementary hands-on work and community engagement opportunities. Earnings from donor-initiated funds provide additional support as the College works to provide students with this distinctive undergraduate education.

Consider becoming a part of the legacy that Warren Wilson College students build as they go on to create solutions to problems and inspire new generations. If you are interested in establishing a scholarship, please contact us at advancement@warren-wilson.edu.

The following named scholarship and endowed funds and endowed planned gifts were initiated or fully funded between June 2021 and June 2022.

Clint Bernard and Katie Perkins Endowed Music Scholarship & Endowed Music Fund

These two planned gifts will come from the estate of Katie Perkins and Clint Bernard, who share a lifelong love and appreciation of music. The scholarship will be given to deserving students, with a preference for those studying Music. The Endowed Music Fund will provide financial support for strategic needs of the Warren Wilson College Music Department. The donors had this to share about their generous gifts: "Nothing stirs our emotions more than music played at a high level. This is why we make our gift, to aid and encourage those who share our passion. Our connection to Warren Wilson is through the Swannanoa Gathering. We enjoy all types of music. As the old statement goes, 'There are only two types of music: good and bad.' We make our gift in hopes of bringing more good music into the world and into the hearts of the students expanding their knowledge of music. After all, music really does make the world a better place!"

The Doris Sams Memorial Endowed Scholarship

This planned gift will be made possible by the estate of Linda G. Wright '71. She named the scholarship for Doris Sams, who was her College Counselor and whose brother Dale Sams '69 attended the College. Wright worked in the Counseling and Guidance Office of Broward Community College from 1965 to 1968, where she met Sams. In January 1968, Wright left her position to attend Warren Wilson College as a non-traditional student, where she worked on the Library Crew and later graduated with a major in History and a minor in English. Because of her experience on the library work crew, Wright pursued a master's degree in Library and Information Science at Florida State University, which she earned in 1972. The Doris Sams Memorial Endowed Scholarship will provide recognition and financial assistance to deserving undergraduate students enrolled or planning to enroll at Warren Wilson, with preference given to international students and Students of Color.



Dr. Steven A. Williams Scholarship

This scholarship was established by the estate of Dr. Steven Alan Williams. Dr. Williams began his professional career at Warren Wilson College in 1981 as

the Chapel and College Organist and accepted a teaching faculty position in the Music Department in 1982. He served as Chair of the Music Department from 1985 to 1989 and again from 1992 to 2007. In 1990, Steve was the first Warren Wilson faculty member awarded the honor of Teacher of the Year. He also served as the Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church Organist, Music Director, and Chapel Choir Director until 2018. Dr. Williams retired from Warren Wilson College in the fall of 2019. His expertise in music was recognized in countless ways, including being awarded the Prix d'Excellence in 1980 while studying under Marie-Claire Alain at the Conservatoire National de Musique in France, and winning First Place in the 1981 National Organ Playing Competition in Fort Wayne, Indiana. To the Warren Wilson Community he was known as a teacher, choral director, and musical theatre director—roles that he embraced with enthusiasm, humor, and seemingly inexhaustible patience. Through this scholarship, Dr. Williams' legacy of music is passed on in financial assistance to undergraduate students studying music at Warren Wilson College.

Gran P. and Gayle H. Childress Memorial Endowed Scholarship

This planned gift will come from the estate of Susan Childress McCracken, who worked at the College from 2010 through 2020 assisting the Vice President for Administration and Finance. McCracken's parents, Gran and Gayle Childress, were friends of President Ben Holden and First Lady of the College Betty Holden, as well as President Doug Orr and First Lady of the College Darcy Orr. Mr. Childress was on the Board of Advisors from 1982 through 1994 and worked closely with President Holden on fundraising and other financial matters. Mrs. Childress volunteered at the College and loved playing her dulcimer at the Swannanoa Gathering. In his youth, Mr. Childress received a full scholarship through the generosity of John W. Umstead, Jr., the extraordinary North Carolina legislator and philanthropist. Following Umstead's example, the Childresses created a life devoted to family, church, and community. McCracken established the gift to honor her parents and continue the legacy—made possible by Umstead's benevolence—to provide higher education for students who are least able to afford this opportunity to create a better life.

Intora Scholarship Fund

This scholarship was created by Julie Stewart '93, through her company Intora, Inc. Stewart credits Dr. Louise Solomon, Dean of Student Life 1986 to 2004, as the one who inspired her to explore career opportunities after graduation. Stewart wanted to stay on campus and work at

Warren Wilson, and Dr. Solomon told her, "No. Go out there and make a life for yourself—make some money—and then you can give back to Warren Wilson." This stuck with Stewart, and now she is doing just that. The purpose of this scholarship is to provide recognition and financial assistance to deserving undergraduate students, with first consideration given to self-identified Black, Latinx, International, and Trans* or Gender Diverse students enrolled or planning to enroll in Warren Wilson College.



Pisgah Investments Foundation Scholarship

Established by local Warren Wilson friends Nancy and Tom Maher through their family

foundation, the Pisgah Investments Foundation, this endowed scholarship will support first-generation college students with a minimum GPA of 2.5. Longtime community leaders, the Mahers are strong advocates for our students here at the College. Nancy first learned of the College through her work as Scholarship Chair and now Program Chair of the French Broad River Garden Club, which has supported students at the College for almost 30 years. We are honored that the Mahers have added Warren Wilson College to the list of educational institutions they support.

ALUMNI NEWS

1950s

Joe Greene '50 lost his wife of 60 years, Joanne, last November. Although she was not an alum herself, Joanne was a supporter of WWC, and always made sure they gave each year.

Jean (Combs) Voltmann '52 would love to hear from fellow classmates from the Class of 1952. Jean's email address is jean.voltmann1@stny.Rr.Com.

Bill Young '54 now lives at The Conservatory at Champion Forest in Spring, Texas.

James Sheppard '59 finished writing his book, *The Last Redneck*, this spring. The book will be edited and published soon.

Regina (Heath) Tyndall '59 says hello to all of her fellow Warren Wilson alumni. "Those were two wonderful years that I remember with great fondness. God bless you all."

1960s

Randi Tuxen Ringkjoeb '60 is 82 years old and now has a great-grandchild, Elias, who is one year old. In total, Randi has three sons, one daughter, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. Randi says she loved her time at WWC and has maintained a lifelong connection with a classmate from Cuba, whom she visited in Cuba many years ago. Randi and her husband are doing well.

Brenda (Epling) Castle McCloud '62 would like to hear from her WWC classmates by email at BrenTennis40@aol.com. She still enjoys playing tennis three or four times a week. She volunteers her services in her church nursery, caring for babies and toddlers. She recently became a great-grandmother for the first time.

Yukio Yamasaki '62 moved last year and has a new address in Nishinomiya, Japan. He can be reached at ynyamasaki.556@gmail.com.

Dr. E. Jackson Allison '63 recorded a song entitled "The Cultural Rite of Circumcision," part of a public health project to encourage safe circumcision practices to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS in South Africa. This is part of his Virtual Service Project (VSP), an experimental endeavor sponsored by the U.S. Peace Corps.

Patsy (Byrd) Rankins '63 graduated from Warren Wilson Junior College and went on to Berea College to complete her undergraduate degree in Psychology with a minor in Sociology. There she met and married Marco Antonio Yepes. They had three children. Later, Marco was killed in an accident, and Patsy married **William "Bill" Rankins '61**. Patsy and Bill lived in Huntsville, Alabama, for over forty years until Bill's passing in May 2022. They spent 43 beautiful years of marriage together.

Nancy (Coleman) Mace '66 sends greetings from Durango, Colorado, where she and her family have lived for three and a half years. Nancy's greatest joy is spending time with her three-year-old and newborn grandchildren. She is also teaching a few piano students, singing with the local chorale, and volunteering with the Humane Society and other nonprofits. Nancy manages to keep in touch with other graduates from the mid-60s.

Linda (Taylor) Hughes '66 suffered the loss of her husband of 52 years, Carl, to stage four cancer on September 1, 2021. Her son, Troy, has been by her side to help her as she adapts to a new stage of life. "God provides courage and friends along the way."

C. W. "Kam" Kammerer, Jr. '69 and his husband W. P. "Bill" Dill celebrated their 35th year together (15th wedding anniversary) on May 26. They are loving their life in Tryon, North Carolina. Kam is the Gallery Manager for Tryon Painters & Sculptors, a nonprofit member-support organization with around 200 members. Their gallery and gift shop are full of unique items highlighting the arts and crafts skills of the membership. They say, "Come visit Tryon!"

1970s

Thomas Hertner '71 is looking forward (after several years' absence) to seeing friends at the Homecoming celebration this fall. "Hoping the COVID situation won't be a spoiler again."

Michael Baluch '75 celebrated his 29th year in Tiger Rock Martial Arts this year. He is currently co-owner of Tiger Rock Martial Arts in Omaha, Nebraska, and holds the rank of 8th Degree Black Belt Grand Master.

Rev. Dr. Kathryn Johnson Cameron '75 completed her work as a Parish Associate for Pastoral Care at First Presbyterian Asheville and officially retired from teaching on June 1, 2022. As a student at Warren Wilson, Kathryn began her candidacy for ministry sponsored by the Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church. She also began certification to teach English Literature and Special Education. Her dual

careers culminated in her work with Albuquerque Public Schools Transition Services where she worked as the lead teacher for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and with her ministry service to churches in transition. Dr. Johnson Cameron lives in Western North Carolina, near her ancestral home.

Sally Chou '75, a retired educator, crossed paths with **John Arney '97** who owns Helix Landscape Services in Los Angeles, California. "We had lunch at a Shanghai restaurant. He helped me with my vegetable garden beds... how fantastic!"



Sharon Randolph '77 celebrated 15 years of teaching Criminal Justice for South College as well as 25 years of marriage to her husband Chris. They moved to Indiana to be near Sharon's son and granddaughter. In 2020, they rescued a lab/terrier mix that is now training to be a therapy dog.

Thomas Sanders '77 retired from a career in higher education advancement on November 30, 2021, and accepted a position as Executive Director of the South Cumberland Community Fund on December 1, 2021. The Fund is celebrating its 10th year, working with partners in a three-county area to build community capacity and assets. Its focus areas are health, education, and community development.

Dennis Thompson '77 recently completed a stint on the WWC Alumni Board, including a term as President. He is currently on the board of the East Liverpool (Ohio) High School Alumni Association. A retired Academic Advisor at The Ohio State University, he is now adjunct theatre faculty at the East Liverpool campus of Kent State University. Dennis and his wife Barb share five children and nine grandchildren.

Richard Blackburn '78 continues to serve as Vice President at CaroMont Health and leads its major facilities expansion. He heads up CaroMont's main campus expansion and second hospital campus construction. His wife Peggy retired from CaroMont after 45 years as a nurse and nursing leader. Richard has been with CaroMont for 36 years and has no plans to retire.

Leila Percy '79 is back on the WWC Alumni Board and excited at the prospect of reconnecting with everyone. Leila's other highlight of 2021 was that after 7 years of prep, she and Jeff had their first harvest of organic cranberries at Double Yolk Farm: 1,500 pounds!

1980s

Laura Boosinger '80 is the voice of and an occasional writer for the podcast *Down the Road on the Blue Ridge Music Trails of North Carolina*. A recent episode was about **Billy Edd Wheeler '53**.

Kathryn Buckner '81 and her husband Mike celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in



Lewis Pullman '15 Lights up the Big Screen

Photo credit: Paramount Pictures

Since his graduation, Lewis Pullman '15 has built a successful acting career in TV and film. He starred in this year's hit movie *Top Gun: Maverick* alongside Tom Cruise, playing Lieutenant Robert "Bob" Floyd, a quiet but skilled weapon systems officer. Some of Pullman's other credits include the films *Bad Times at the El Royale* and *The Strangers: Prey at Night*, and the series *Catch-22* and *Outer Range*.

During his time as a student, Pullman was a fixture in the Warren Wilson Department of Theatre, appearing in productions such as *Pygmalion* and *The Philadelphia Story*. He has acknowledged Department of Theatre Chair Candace Taylor, MFA, for her support in preparing him to launch his career, which involved practicing audition techniques and building his confidence as an actor.

Pullman has also credited his father, noted actor Bill Pullman, as one of his greatest influences. *The Independence Day* star is a parent of two Warren Wilson graduates—Lewis and his brother Jack Pullman '12—and he delivered a memorable Commencement Address at the College in 2017.

MILESTONES

November 2021. They were married at the lovely WWC chapel by Rev. Fred Ohler and Dr. G. Gordon Mahy. They cherish their family, son, daughter, son-in-law, and two young grandsons. They enjoy mini reunions with WWC forever friends throughout the year.

Donna Cabell '81 lived in her van for 15 years in Honolulu, Hawaii, then on the west side of the island, and then relocated to Kapolei, Hawaii. Right now, she is in her hometown of Charlottesville, Virginia, since her father recently passed away. A few years ago, **Chaiyong Sriprasidh '78** visited her in Hawaii. He manages his parents' rubber tree plantation in the south of Thailand.

J. Kim Wright '81 was an editor for The American Bar Association's (ABA) upcoming publication, *Trauma-Informed Law, A Primer for Practicing Lawyers and Pathway for Resilience and Healing*. This is Kim's third ABA book. She is currently working with educators in South Africa to create an LLM program in Integrative Law and to expand her curriculum that has been taught in seven South African law schools. She is also a visiting professor at Quinnipiac University School of Law.

Robert Wright '81 lives in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and would like to catch up with friends from his time at WWC. He is the father of five grown daughters and grandfather of twelve grandchildren. He is active in the Tullahoma Presbyterian Church and works in Human Resources at a company providing care for elderly Tennesseans. Robert is incredibly grateful for his time at WWC (1977–1981) and has many great memories of those years. WWC taught him many things beyond the classroom and helped him to become a leader and a good person within the church and his social work career.

Amy (Briggs) Parker '82 and husband Allen Parker live in Blue Rock, Ohio. Their joys are their four children and their families, with five grandchildren. They run Canoe Creation, leading river and rappelling trips teaching about our Creator. Learn more at www.canoecreation.org. Amy also writes songs, performs, and teaches music. She has three recorded CDs and songs on soundcloud.com.



She has three recorded CDs and songs on soundcloud.com.

Julia Nunnally Duncan '82, MFA '84 and husband Steve attended Appalachian State University's 2022 graduation ceremony, in which

their daughter **Annie Duncan '20** received her MA in Higher Education. Julia is proud that Annie, like herself, has pursued a career in higher education.

Karin Heiman '84 works for the Southeast Regional Land Conservancy, which is celebrating its 20th year protecting nature around the Southeastern United States.

Betsy Keller '87 recently married Mwana Bermudes who is from southern Africa. Mwana is

a musician and photographer. Betsy completed a four-year program in Eden Energy Medicine and she is an Advanced Practitioner and Teacher. To learn more go to KanimamboCreations.com and NCEnergyMedicineworks.com or contact Betsy at betsykeller77@gmail.com.

Barbara Norton '87 has been with her wonderful partner for 28 years and is happily living in Asheville, North Carolina. Barbara is retired from Social Work and is enjoying her little dog, taking walks (when her feet will let her), going outdoors, being with friends, her flower garden, and her new YouTube channel @Barb Norton. Barb stated, "I never dreamed exploring YouTube and doing little silly videos could be so fun! What a Hoot!" Recalling her wonderful memories of Warren Wilson, Barb said, "It was a grand time!"

Rev. Beth (Mann) Woodard '89 moved Virginia to work as a hospice chaplain and bereavement coordinator for Kindred of Virginia Beach. She and her husband, Mark, live in a historic neighborhood in Portsmouth, Virginia, with their rescue dogs and grand-cat. Her sons occasionally remember that she exists.

1990s

Greg Wilkins '90

received a 2022 Minnesota State Arts Board grant in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. He is also one of nine international artists chosen by the Federal Performing Arts Association in



collaboration with the Gay Men's Chorus of Washington for the world premiere of *Portraits* at the Kennedy Center in June 2024. He will work with a lyricist, choreographer, and composer with his mixed media piece "Black Lives Matter: Keep Your Eye on the Prize." And lastly, Greg has returned to Warren Wilson this academic year for his sabbatical as an Artist-and-Scholar-in-Residence.



Jennifer Seo '98 and **Keller Staubes '98** reunited 23 years after first falling in love and continued their long, winding journey by eloping on April 27, 2021. The happy newlyweds are planning a wedding celebration in Virginia

in late 2022. They reside in Charleston, South Carolina, with Keller's two children, Emmalyn and Tripp, and look forward to a life full of adventure, laughter, animals, and making the world a brighter place.

George Whitman IV '99 purchased Industrial Tape and Supply Company (ITS) at the end of March 2022. An established tape company

serving the Southeast and national markets, ITS specializes in converting, printing, and distribution of tapes for industry.

2000s

Amanda Herman '00 moved to Nevada in early 2020 after living in Colorado for seven years. Previously a Montessori Admissions Director in Denver, Amanda has taken on an exciting new role in Graduate Medical Education at University of Nevada-Las Vegas. She'd love to hear from old friends at abherman77@gmail.com.

Jay Lively '00 and Rebecca Hendrix Lively were married on February 26, 2021 in Asheville, North Carolina. More than 30 fellow Warren Wilson alumni, friends, and family attended the ceremony at Haywood Street Congregation and reception at Grey Eagle Music Hall.



Sky Stephens '01 accepted a new position as a Forest Health Specialist at the Washington, D.C. Office (Headquarters) of the U.S. Forest Service. She leads the Forest Health Protection groups' national reporting and performance metrics, manages the portfolio on forest genetic conservation, resilience, and restoration, and leads other special projects in forest health. She and her family moved to Fairfax, Virginia, and hope to reconnect with local alumni and explore new places after 20 years out West.

Joel Quick '05 and **Brianna (Bassett) Quick '07** are living in Boston, Massachusetts, with their four-year-old daughter, Nyima. Brianna is an editor for a nonprofit Buddhist publisher, Wisdom Publications, and Joel is a land use and real estate attorney with a focus on renewable energy at Pierce Atwood.



Pat Addabbo '08 married Hannah North in June 2021 at Hannah's grandparents' farm in Central Pennsylvania. Pat and Hannah live, work, and play in Bend, Oregon, where Pat is the Executive Director

of Oregon Adaptive Sports. They have a room in their little bungalow that is open to any Wilsonites traveling to the Pacific Northwest.

Nathan Ballentine '08, Man in Overalls, is relishing life with his wife of 8 years, Mary Elizabeth, and 3-year-old son, Malcolm, in Jacksonville, Florida. He is busy growing an urban agriculture team that is now up to four Farmers in Overalls (five, counting Malcolm).

Nathan Bell '08 and **Emily Gary '10** welcomed their first child, Alden James Bell, into the world on May 22, 2022. They are grateful to be living near family and friends in North Carolina who are showering the future WWC generation with love.

Teshale Byan '08 and **Lora Hawkins '09** married last fall in an intimate ceremony, filled with slanting light and good cheer. They teach together at Asheville's Franklin School of Innovation. Lora also recently completed her Ph.D. in English Education at Columbia University.

Erica Hellen '08 received a Master's of Environmental Management from Yale School of the Environment in May 2021, started a new job as Director of Operations at Foodshed Capital in August, and welcomed baby Ozzy into the world in December. "2021 was a big year!"

Taylor Johnson '08 started a new career as a full-time sex educator and coach for men in 2019. His new podcast, *Eros Rising*, is public as of March 2022.



Victoria (Hurst) Jayroe '09 was married at home in April 2020, but was finally able to have a wedding reception with friends and family on May 1, 2021. All of her Schafer suitemates were able to reunite for this joyous occasion. Pictured left to right are **Sara Crossan '08**, **Caitlin Tubbesing '09**, **Heather Goddard '09**, **Tori Jayroe '09**, **Amelia Cleveland-Strang '09**, **Tabby Kube '09**, **Elizabeth Hammitt '07**, and **Rachel Troutman '09**.

2010s

Rae (Hoffman) Jager '10 debuted her first full-length collection of poetry this year through Kelsay Books. *American Bitch* sold 100 copies in the first two weeks.

Freesia McKee '12 is serving as the Poet-in-Residence at Ripon College and is teaching a class on ecopoetry during the fall 2022 semester.

Kathryn (Kayte Sabo) Pritchard '12 and husband, Travis, welcomed their little "T-Rex," James Logan, on November 14, 2021.

Emma (Topor) Haydocy '13 is the new Florida Policy Manager with the Surfrider Foundation. Based out of the Florida Keys, she looks forward to advocating for Florida's waterways and coastal communities in her new role.

Arayah Larson '13 married Dr. Alyssa Show on April 23, 2022 in Sedona, Arizona. A fundraiser and veterinarian, respectively, they live in Phoenix, Arizona, with four dogs. Dr. Show's grandmother attended the coed Warren Wilson Vocational Junior College in 1945.

Adam Dovenitz '14 is a Registered Nurse at UNC-Chapel Hill Campus Health Services (full circle after spending four years on the WWC Health Center Crew!). He lives in Durham, North Carolina, with his wife, Leslie. At the end of March 2022, they welcomed their first child, Abigail.

Nora White '14 and **Connor Carman '16** and were married August 21, 2021 in Tenino, Washington. They were surrounded by friends and family in community and love.



Deanna Dragan '15 graduated from The University of Alabama with a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology in December of 2021. After many years of training, she is thrilled to start her professional career as a full-time staff psychologist at the Salem VA Medical Center in Salem, Virginia.

Livia Bradbury '16 married Maddie Montarsi on October 15, 2021. It was a courthouse wedding with family and close friends in attendance. She and Maddie are hoping to have a celebration of marriage in the coming year.

Julia Griffin '17 is now **Jules Amanita** and uses they/them pronouns. They have been a member of Twin Oaks Community, the subject of their Sociology and Anthropology thesis, for four years.

RETIREMENTS



Eric Baden, MFA
By **Lara Nguyen, MFA**

In his 27 years as part of the Warren Wilson community, Eric Baden, MFA, like his guacamole, spiced things up. With his funky shirt and tie combos topped with a trademark hat, Eric appeared, at times, to be an anachronistic anomaly on this campus. The melange that is Eric Baden does not stop at his signature style, but is experienced through his wide-ranging bodies of photographic work that reflect his travels, interests, and the many stories he has gathered throughout the years. Eric, like his work, can act as a bridge to faraway places, creating connection and community. As Chair of the

Art Department, he asked hard questions and listened intently without judgment. As a teacher, he worked tirelessly to mentor students to discover their interests, practice their crafts, and develop their artistic voices. He generously, year after year, took classes of graduating seniors to Washington, D.C., and led study away courses to widen their horizons. To me, Eric's legacy is to unapologetically do what you love, teach what you love, and forget the red tape. Although Eric has retired, the Art Department faculty will continue to learn by his example of balancing rigorous scholarship with a deep commitment to teaching.



David G. Moore, Ph.D.
By **Christey Carwile, Ph.D.**, **Ben Feinberg, Ph.D.**, and **Siti Kusujarti, Ph.D.**

A thorough excavation of the traces of Dr. David Moore's connection and contribution to the College stretches all the way back to 1978, when he first began teaching the summer Warren Wilson Archeology Field School, a position which led, three years later, to a teaching position during the rest of the year. Few professors have had more of an impact on our community over this vast epoch, and none have lived and breathed Warren Wilson as sincerely and deeply as Dave. He has deepened our understanding of the land we squat on, thanks to his work on the Warren Wilson site, and transformed our understanding of the history of our region, thanks to his work in the historical Joara site. As an Archeologist, he has been recognized from Bolivia to China, and he has trained several generations of professionals, including four Warren Wilson alumni who have gone on to complete doctorate work in this field. Closer to home, he has been a tireless advocate for Warren Wilson, and a stalwart member of the community: a bartender at end-of-year banquets, an anonymous donor for needy students, a reliable participant in Work Days, an organizer of the Lettuce Eating Contest to support our annual fund, and a bridge between our students and the community through his commitment to community engagement and service. Unlike most faculty, his teaching only intensified over the summer, as he gave students an invaluable hands-on experience working at the Field School. Dave has lived in and served the Warren Wilson community for 44 years. We have been honored to work alongside him as a colleague and friend.



Lynn Morton, Ph.D.

By Bill Christy '79

President Lynn Morton, Ph.D. celebrated her retirement after five years at the College. The first woman President of the College, her legacy is marked by some incredible strides forward for our community.

During her tenure, student enrollment increased by 20 percent, driven by the new Milepost One and NC Free tuition-free scholarship initiatives and a renewed emphasis on Athletics as an enrollment driver. President Morton led a strategic planning process that resulted in a new mission statement.

President Morton also made several key changes to College leadership, including implementing the Provost model, and establishing the Dean of Land Resources position to optimize our ability to leverage our land as a resource. Under her leadership, we addressed many deferred maintenance needs on campus. She also successfully navigated our campus through the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Fifth-Year Interim Report process and a recent Strategic Enrollment Planning effort. Not to mention, she accomplished all this while guiding the College through the COVID-19 pandemic, during which time she worked closely with other higher education leaders and regional health partners to make informed, effective decisions to keep our community safe.

Of course, all of these achievements—and many more—were supported by the collaborative effort of many talented and dedicated people. But they would not have been possible without the strong leadership of President Morton. We thank her for her incredible service to the College.

In spring 2022, President Morton was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the most prestigious award presented by the Governor of North Carolina for state service. It honors those with more than 30 years of service to North Carolina and who have made significant contributions to the state and their communities through their exemplary service and exceptional accomplishments.

In addition to her presidency at Warren Wilson College, President Morton has served on the Executive Committee of North Carolina Campus Compact, as Chair of the Finance Committee of the Appalachian College Association Executive Committee, and Secretary/Treasurer of the Work Colleges Consortium Presidents Council. She previously had a successful 27-year career at Queens University of Charlotte, which included positions as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Hope Williams, President of North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, nominated Morton for the Order of the Long Leaf Pine.

“Dr. Morton’s extensive career in higher education in North Carolina, culminating in her presidency of Warren Wilson College, has been so distinguished at Warren Wilson and in the broader higher education continuum of our state that I wanted to be sure her accomplishments were acknowledged and celebrated,” Williams said. “Her deep commitment to Warren Wilson, and to its transformational role in the lives of students and families, has been clear in her words and actions since she first became President.”

Chris Nugent

By Brian Conlan

Chris Nugent began her career at Warren Wilson in 2002 and, as Library Director, oversaw a period of dynamic change in the Pew Learning Center and Ellison Library. Chris led us through four College administrations, multiple multi-year Strategic Plans, SACS reports, and departmental restructurings, while keeping the Library on our path toward the mission of fostering inquiry, exploration, and discovery. She encouraged personal and professional growth for all Pew Learning Center staff and has shown a willingness for experimentation that has inspired the staff to take chances and to imagine possibilities. Under Chris’s watch, the Library grew into a campus hub. Just a few of the new developments she supported include the following: the Cole Study Room, a location dedicated to student access; a Documentary Film Program that transformed the definition of signature work on this campus; a fledgling E-Portfolio program and a multi-year Faculty Technology Teaching and Learning Community; a Makerspace; a Sound Lab; and an Institutional Digital Repository, an open access public archive of Warren Wilson work that will grow and raise the visibility of this College for years to come. Chris really has created a center, a nucleus, a home of experiential learning. And while doing all of this, Chris modeled excellent research and scholarship, publishing articles in the *Journal of European Studies*, *The Oral History Review*, and the *Journal of the North Carolina Association of Historians*. The list continues, but it’s easier just to say that Chris amassed a long, sustained, and impressive list of professional achievements. I’m beyond proud of this Library, our staff, our beautiful space, and the Library’s strong reputation that Chris built.



FACULTY & STAFF NEWS

Dr. David Abernathy, Chair and Professor of Global Studies, was appointed as a peer mentor for Open Appalachia: Open & Affordable Resource Initiatives through the Appalachian College Association. In this role, Dr. Abernathy mentors faculty across the consortium in identifying lower or no-cost alternatives to expensive textbooks for students.

Dr. Paul Bartels, Professor of Biology, co-authored several articles that appeared in journals, including the *Zoological Journal of the Linnean Society*, *Marine Biology Research*, and *Zoological Letters*. Dr. Bartels continues to be one of the world's foremost experts on tardigrades, which were the focus of several of these papers. He also delivered a virtual presentation in August 2021 called "The Wonderful World of Water Bears: From Mountains to the Sea" for the Science at Sugarlands series, a partnership between the non-profit Discover Life in America and Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Dr. Amy Boyd, Professor of Biology, published the article "Vascular Flora of the Christmount Preserve, Buncombe County, North Carolina" in the journal *Castanea – Journal of the Southern Appalachian Botanical Society*, along with three Warren Wilson alumni, **Lane Doyle '19**, **Gray Goliszek '20**, and **Susie Lusardi '21**, who worked on the project as summer research interns.



Dr. Christey Carwile, Professor of Anthropology and Director of Africana Studies, published the article "Race, Power, and Place: Lakota Lessons from the Pine Ridge Reservation" in the *Michigan Journal of Community Service Learning*. The article highlights Lakota stories and lessons learned over two years of student community engagement on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Dr. Carwile was invited to speak about her article in February as part of a panel on "Centering Social Justice in Community Engagement" through the University of Michigan's National Center for Institutional Diversity.

Dr. Patrick Ciccotto, Instructor of Biology, co-authored the article "Polygenic sex determination produces modular sex polymorphism in an African cichlid fish" in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Dr. Jason DeCristofaro, Instructor of Music, completed his Doctorate of Musical Arts (DMA) from Boston University College of Fine Arts

in Music Education.

Sierra Hollister, Adjunct Faculty, is excited to announce her first proper book, *Moon Path Yoga* (Shambhala



Publications, 2022). Many alumni have practiced yoga with Sierra over the past 25+ years and will no doubt appreciate this beautiful book, brimming with wisdom, insight, and ways to bring alignment and harmony into one's life through yoga practice.

Phil Jamison, Professor of Mathematics and Music Director of Traditional Music Program, contributed to the soundtrack and a square dance scene in Martin Scorsese's film *Killers of the Flower Moon*, the tragic, true story of a series of murders of wealthy Osage people in Oklahoma in the early 1920s. He also advised Mr. Scorsese on traditional dance.

Dr. Annie Jonas, Chair and Professor of Education, **Dr. Langdon Martin**, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Chair of Chemistry and Physics **Brooke Millsaps**, Dean of Academic Administration and College Registrar, presented "Civic Identity Assessment in the First Year Seminar" at the Indiana University – Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) Assessment Institute in October 2021. This presentation highlighted the lessons learned and the results of four years of evaluating civic identity reflections that Warren Wilson first year students write at the end of their First Year Seminar.

Dr. Kevin Kehrbeg, Chair and Associate Professor of Music, won the International Bluegrass Music Association's Instrumental Recorded Performance of the Year award for his outstanding recording of "Ground Speed" with Kristin Scott Benson and other artists from Mountain Home Music.

Dr. Ben Krakauer, Assistant Professor of Music, was a member of the working group that co-authored "5 Ways Instructors Are Including Anti-racism in Roots Music Studies" in the popular Americana music journal *No Depression*.

Dr. Langdon Martin, Associate Professor of Chemistry and Chair of Chemistry and Physics, published the article "Spent Craft Brewer's Yeast Reduces Production of Methane and Ammonia by Bovine Rumen Microbes" in the journal *Frontiers in Animal Science*. Coauthors included alumni **Rhys Burns '17**, **Denia Carlton '22**, **Chris Feidler-Cree '17** and other collaborators.

Dr. Mallory McDuff, Professor of Environmental Studies and Outdoor Leadership and Director of Environmental Education, has published essays about her most recent book, *Our Last Best Act: Planning for the End of Our Lives to Protect the People and Places We Love*, in *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *WIRED*, *Sojourners*, *Huffington Post*, *Next Avenue*, and *The Independent*. She's given numerous presentations to both virtual and in-person audiences about revising her final wishes with climate change and community in mind.

Dr. Olya Milenkaya '03, Assistant Professor of Conservation Biology, was a contributing author to "A North American strategic plan to prevent and control invasions of the lethal salamander pathogen *Batrachochytrium salamandrivorans*" (salamanderfungus.org). She also presented an invited talk about bird communication to the New Hope Audubon Society in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Sonce Reese, Integrated Advising Coach, virtually presented "Impacts of Disaster Homelessness on Poor, Low-Income, and Impoverished Communities" at the Race, Ethnicity, and Place



Trustee Honored with AASHE Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. David E. Shi, Trustee of Warren Wilson College and President Emeritus of Furman University in South Carolina, received the 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE). The award, which is the highest honor bestowed upon an individual by AASHE, honors outstanding leaders who have made significant contributions to the advancement of sustainability in higher education.

During his presidency at Furman from 1994–2010, Dr. Shi championed the university's emphasis on engaged learning, energy conservation, and environmental stewardship. Under his direction, Furman became a national leader in promoting sustainability.

It was during this time that Dr. Shi built a connection to Warren Wilson College, forming a relationship with Warren Wilson President Emeritus Doug Orr, along with Larry Shinn, then-President of Berea College in Kentucky, to discuss sustainability issues and programs. In 2020, Dr. Shi joined the Warren Wilson College Board of Trustees, lending his expertise on sustainability and higher education leadership to the College.



Celebrating Janis Ian's Final Album

Janis Ian, a multi-Grammy Award-winning musician and loyal supporter of Warren Wilson College, released her final album *The Light at the End of the Line* in January. The culmination of her decades-long career, the album has been met with critical acclaim.

Ian has attended and taught at The Swannanoa Gathering—a longstanding summer program at Warren Wilson offering folk music and dance workshops—for many years. The fourth track on the album, “Swannanoa,” is a longing tune about our valley home that was originally completed for the 25th anniversary of The Gathering in 2016.

“I think ‘Swannanoa’ is one of the stand out pieces on the album,” Ian said. “I recorded it with John Whelan and Nuala Kennedy, who I met at The Gathering after writing the song. The song wouldn’t have existed without The Swannanoa Gathering, my little house at Ransom, and the beauty of the Warren Wilson campus.”

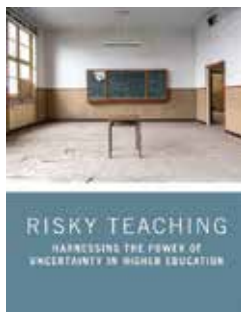
To listen to “Swannanoa,” to purchase *The Light at the End of the Line*, or to learn more about The Swannanoa Gathering, visit warren-wilson.edu/owlandspade2022.

(REP)/Middle Atlantic Division of the Association of American Geographers Conference.

Dr. Cristina Reitz-Krueger, Assistant Professor of Psychology and Director of Undergraduate Research, and colleagues published a paper titled “Alcohol and Perceived Culpability in Sexual Assault Cases” in the journal *Violence Against Women*.

Dr. Jamie Ridenhour, Instructor of English, continues to produce an audio drama called *Palimpsest*, which recently ran its fourth season and hit 500,000 listens/downloads. Dr. Ridenhour’s original theater production, *Bloodbath: Victoria’s Secret*, had a run at Asheville’s Magnetic Theater. He was also a featured guest on a national writing podcast, *Write Now with Sarah Werner*, where he talked about horror, academia, and the craft and process of writing in different genres.

Dr. Jay Roberts, Provost and Dean of the Faculty, co-authored a 2021 article in *Inside Higher Education* titled “The Paradoxical Provost” with Dr. Karlyn Crowley, Provost at Ohio Wesleyan University.



Corinna Steinrueck '19, Forest Manager, published “Belowground community turnover accelerates the decomposition of standing dead wood” in the journal *Ecology*. This article came from the research she did at Yale School of the Environment over the last few years.

Dr. Bob Swoap, Professor of Psychology, gave two lectures on his research on resilience. The first was entitled “Resilience in first responders and athletes: Applications for optimal mental health, wellness, and performance,” delivered at the Art and Science of Health Promotion Conference. The second was “Incorporating resilience training and mindfulness practices in the classroom” at the National Institute of the Teaching of Psychology. He also serves as the sport psychologist for U.S. Table Tennis and for the North Carolina State University Women’s Cross-Country Team, who won their first national championship in November 2021.

Christine Swoap, Instructor of Spanish and Global Studies, and her students completed a community-engaged podcasting project with Owen High School (in Black Mountain, North Carolina) English Language Learners. This work, *Collaborative Podcasting: Immigrant Youth and College Students’ Partnership*, was presented at the Southeastern Immigration Studies Association Conference. The



podcasts can be found in the Warren Wilson Digital Repository.

Candace Taylor, MFA, Chair and Associate Professor of Theatre and Artistic Director of the Theatre, directed the play *The Lifespan of*

a *Fact* at North Carolina Stage Company, Asheville’s only professional theatre company. WWC alumnus **Conor Donahue '17** played one of the three roles in the show, and Adjunct Faculty **Jeannie Regan** contributed the set design.

Dr. Yuemei Zhang, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, was awarded 50,000 core-hours from one of the National Science Foundation’s supercomputing centers, San Diego Supercomputer Center, for her research. Dr. Zhang also presented a poster with **Pratima Menyangbo '21** and colleagues at the virtual North American Solid State Chemistry Conference. The poster was titled “First-Principal Investigations on the HER Activity of Boron Layers in Different Chemical Environment.”

AWARDS & WORKS BY MFA PROGRAM FOR WRITERS ALUMNI & FACULTY

FACULTY AWARDS

Charles Baxter was selected as the winner of the 2021 PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in the Short Story.

Adria Bernardi was awarded the 2021 FC2 Catherine Doctorow Innovative Fiction Prize by Joyelle McSweeney for her novel, *Benefit Street* (University of Alabama Press, 2022).

Jamel Brinkley received one of the 2022-2023 Rome Prizes in Literature for his project *Another Life: A Novel*.

Stephen Dobyns received the 2022 Award of Merit for Poetry from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Reginald Gibbons received the 2021 Fuller Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Chicago Literary Hall of Fame.

Lysley Tenorio received a 2022 Guggenheim Fellowship.

ALUMNI AWARDS

Catherine Barnett '02 (poetry) received a 2022 Arts and Letters Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Reginald Dwayne Betts '10 (poetry) received a 2021 MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship.

Tommye Blount '13 (poetry) was a finalist for the 2021 Lambda Literary Award for *Fantasia for the Man in Blue* (Four Way Books, 2020).

Sharon Gelman '16 (fiction) was the first-place winner of the 2021 Page One Prize.

Tommy Hays '88 (fiction) and **Glenis Redmond '11 (poetry)** were inducted into the South Carolina Academy of Authors.

Tariq Lathun '18 (poetry) was named a 2021 Kresge Artist Fellow.

Sue Mell '16 (fiction) won Madville Publishing’s Blue Moon Novel Competition for her novel *Provenance* (Madville Publishing LLC, 2022).

Daniela Molnar '21 (poetry) was awarded the 2021 Omnidawn 1st/2nd Poetry Book Prize.

Margaret Ray '20 (poetry) won the 21st annual A. Poulin, Jr. Poetry Prize.

Ian Shapira '20 (fiction) won the 2022 Paul Tobenkin Memorial Award for his investigation and journalistic stories about Virginia Military Institute.

PUBLICATIONS

FACULTY

Kaveh Akbar *Pilgrim Bell* (Graywolf Press, 2021)

Marianne Boruch *Bestiary Dark* (Copper Canyon Press, 2021)

Maud Casey *City of Incurable Women* (Bellevue Literary Press, 2022)

Adrienne Celt *End of the World House* (Simon & Schuster, 2022)

Lan Samantha Chang *The Family Chao* (W. W. Norton & Company, 2022)

Carolyn Ferrell *Dear Miss Metropolitan* (Henry Holt & Company, 2021)

Lauren Groff *Matrix* (Riverhead Books, 2021)

Brooks Haxton *Mister Toebones* (Knopf, 2021)

Vanessa Hua *Forbidden City* (Ballantine Books, 2022)

Dana Levin *Now Do You Know Where You Are* (Copper Canyon Press, 2022)

Sandra Lim *The Curious Thing* (W. W. Norton & Company, 2021)

Kevin McIlvoy *One Kind Favor* (WTAW Press, 2021)

Pablo Medina *Foreigner's Song: New and Selected Poems* (Tiger Bark Press, 2021)

Matthew Olzmann *Constellation Route* (Alice James Books, 2022)

Kirstin Valdez Quade *The Five Wounds* (W. W. Norton & Company, 2021)

Alan Shapiro *Proceed to Check Out* (University of Chicago Press, 2022)

ALUMNI

Sarah Alcott Anderson '11 (poetry) *We Hold Onto What We Can* (Loom Press, 2021)

Dinah Berland '95 (poetry) *Hotel at the End of the World* (Finishing Line Press, 2021)

Robin Black '05 (fiction) *Virginia Woolf's Mrs. Dalloway: Bookmarked* (lg Publishing, 2022)

Mary Lou Buschi '04 (poetry) *Paddock* (Lily Poetry Review, 2021)

Scott Gould '06 (fiction) *Things That Crash, Things That Fly* (Vine Leaves Press, 2021)

Elizabeth T. Gray '09 (poetry) translator for Farough Farrokhzad's *Let Us Believe in the Beginning of the Cold Season: Selected Poems* (New Directions, 2022)

Samantha Hunt '99 (fiction) *The Unwritten Book: An Investigation* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2022)

Paul Jones '93 (poetry) *Something Wonderful* (Redhawk Publications, 2021)

Cynthia Dewi Oka '19 (poetry) *Fire is Not a Country* (TriQuarterly, 2021)

Katie Runde '12 (fiction) *The Shore* (Scribner, 2022)

Ralph Sneed '95 (poetry) *Surface Fugue* (EastOver Press LLC, 2021)

Jennifer Sperry Steinorth '15 (poetry) *Her Read: A Graphic Poem* (Texas Review Press, 2021)

J.C. Todd '90 (poetry) *Beyond Repair* (Able Muse Press, 2021)

Lara Tupper '01 (fiction) *Amphibians* (Leapfrog Press, 2021)

Shannon K. Winston '18 (poetry) *The Girl Who Talked to Paintings* (Glass Lyre Press, 2021)

Paula Yoo '04 (fiction) *From a Whisper to a Rallying Cry: The Killing of Vincent Chin and the Trial that Galvanized the Asian American Movement* (W. W. Norton & Company, 2021)

IN MEMORIAM

We remember the following individuals for their service and dedication to Warren Wilson College.



Dr. Robert L. Albright, who served on the Warren Wilson Board of Trustees from 1991 to 2002, passed on September 18, 2021. Dr. Albright was a native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He received his

bachelor's degree from Lincoln University, a master's degree from Tufts University, and his doctorate from Kent State University. Dr. Albright was the President of Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU) in Charlotte, North Carolina from 1983 to 1994. Warren Wilson President Emeritus Dr. Doug Orr said, "JCSU experienced explosive growth during Dr. Albright's presidency. Intentional about building the University's brand as Charlotte's HBCU, he cultivated relationships with the city's business and civic leaders that continue to pay dividends today. Despite a very heavy schedule, as Bob was much in demand throughout the country to serve on boards and with national associations, he accepted and became a dedicated and most effective Warren Wilson College Trustee, serving on the Education Committee. Over the many years, throughout our various assignments, I had no more trusted and valued colleague than Bob Albright."

John Edward Becker, parent of **Amanda Becker Mosko '91** and **Frances Becker '91**, died on February 10, 2022, in Unity, Maryland. An elementary school teacher for over 30 years, he was a member of the Hilbus Chapter of the Organ Historical Society, member of The Friends of the Agricultural History Farm Park, Inc., and a true historic preservation activist. Everything Becker learned, taught others, or championed, he did with reflectiveness, happiness, and strength. He and his daughters established the



Mourning the Loss of Two of Founder Dr. Henry Randolph's Children

We at Warren Wilson College are saddened by the loss of two of the late Dr. Henry Randolph's children. Randolph, credited as one of the College's founders, served as Superintendent of the Asheville Farm School, saved it from closure during the Great Depression, and led it on its path in transition from a farm school to an institution of higher learning. His daughter **June Randolph Henderson '36** passed away peacefully on December 8, 2021, at the age of 100. Throughout most of her childhood and teens, June lived on campus. Henderson attended the Farm School and later graduated with her bachelor's degree from Greensboro College in 1940. She went on to earn a master's in Journalism from Columbia University. While working as a journalist on *The Richmond News Leader* in Richmond, Virginia, she met her future husband, James B. Henderson. The Hendersons worked as both journalists and teachers throughout their careers. Her brother, **George Homer Randolph**, the youngest of Dr. Randolph's eight children, passed away on June 27, 2022, at 88 years old. Born in the infirmary on campus, George was always known as bright and hardworking. He graduated from Rice University in 1954 and owned his own furniture business for over 50 years in Houston, Texas. Upon retirement, he and his wife of over 40 years, Janet, moved to Black Mountain to return to the mountains he and his family loved.

Unity Scholarship at Warren Wilson in memory of his wife Janet Willcox Becker, a well-respected and highly admired Latin and English teacher to middle school children. The Unity Scholarship is named for Edgehill Farm, a Bicentennial Family Farm in Unity, Maryland, dating back to the 1780s. The scholarship is given to deserving students who major in English, Foreign Languages, American History, Music, Art, or Craft Studies.

Aydin O. Gonulsen '65 passed away on July 6, 2021. Originally from Izmir, Turkey, Gonulsen was a two-time National Junior College Athletic Association All-American soccer player at Warren Wilson, where he set the College record for number of goals scored in a single season. Known as "The Turk" among

the national soccer community, he became the first Athletic Director and Head Soccer Coach at Sangamon State University, later known as the University of Illinois (UI)-Springfield, building its soccer program into a national powerhouse. After retiring from coaching at UI-Springfield, Gonulsen took over the Blackburn College Men's and Women's Soccer teams, helping to revitalize those programs. He was inducted into the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Hall of Fame in 2000 and the Warren Wilson College Athletic and UI-Springfield Halls of Fame in 2014.

Rev. Scott E. "Padre" Jenkins '85, former member of the Warren Wilson Alumni Board, died on August 1, 2021, at the age of 58. Jenkins earned his B.A. in History and Political Science from Warren Wilson, later receiving a master's in Educational Administration from Appalachian State University. Jenkins enjoyed a decades-long career in the Mitchell County School System in North Carolina, and after serving in several other administrative roles, he served as the Principal of Bowman Middle School until his retirement in 2016. Jenkins was also an ordained minister and served as a pastor in several Baptist congregations during his life. A dedicated lifelong learner, Jenkins was enrolled in a doctoral program at Andersonville Theological Seminary at the time of his passing.



Ethna M. McKiernan MFA '04, acclaimed Irish American poet, died on December 12, 2021. Born in Rochester, New York, McKiernan graduated from the University of Minnesota and earned an MFA in Poetry from Warren Wilson College.

She authored five books of poetry; in her work she tackled difficult personal and social issues, such as the death of her son and the killing of George Floyd near her home in Minneapolis, Minnesota. McKiernan was twice awarded a Minnesota State Arts Board grant in poetry, and her first collection was nominated for the Minnesota Book Award. McKiernan owned the book distributor Irish Books & Media, helping to promote Irish writers and artists. After closing her business, she spent 13 years as a street outreach worker in Minneapolis, serving the local homeless population. McKiernan is remembered for her tireless work to support others.

Nicholas Muratha Mugo '61 passed away on February 3, 2022. A native of Kenya, Mugo was the first African student to attend Warren Wilson College. During his undergraduate years, Mugo earned Dean's List honors and was active in the Christian Fellowship and International Relations Club. Mugo had a long career in Kenya as a businessman and diplomat. He served as Kenya's Ambassador in various countries including France, Ethiopia, the Vatican, and Yugoslavia. Mugo is survived by his wife Beth, who is a Senator in Kenya. Kenya's President Kenyatta recognized Mugo's contributions to his home country, saying, "We appreciate that during our early days of independence, he was able to represent our nation as a diplomat in the United Kingdom and later at the UN General Assembly where, together with other Kenyans, he effectively represented Kenya's interests at the global arena." Mugo was recognized with the 1968 Warren Wilson Distinguished Alumnus Award and served on the Alumni Board.

David Bruce Peterson, parent of the late **Joshua Peterson '97**, passed on August 3, 2021. He possessed a wicked sense of humor, enjoyed crossword puzzles, and was an unwavering fan of the Detroit Tigers. Peterson also took up running and completed over 13 half-marathons and 12 full marathons, including the Boston Marathon. He served in Vietnam, receiving a Bronze Star. He and his wife, Rita, established the Joshua Peterson Memorial Scholarship in honor of their son. Josh was a student at Warren Wilson College in 1994 when, on his way home for summer break, he was killed in a motorcycle accident. During his brief time here and through his special love of music, Josh became a part of the Warren Wilson community. Earnings from this endowed scholarship go to deserving students with demonstrated financial need.

Carolyn Osborne Poppett '49 died on May 18, 2022. A graduate of the Junior College, Poppett was deeply tied to Warren Wilson and left a lasting legacy in our community. She was one of several siblings to attend Dorland-Bell School, the Asheville Farm School, or Warren Wilson Junior College or College, and her son, **Jim Poppett '81**, is also an alum. She served on the Alumni Board, and even researched and wrote a folklore history of the first 50 years of the Asheville Farm School and Warren Wilson College; this volume is now located in the archives of the Pew Learning Center & Ellison Library. She was married to the late Ray

E. Poppett, and their wedding reception was held at the home of Dr. Arthur and Mrs. Lucile Bannerman. Poppett was awarded the Warren Wilson Distinguished Service Award in 1994 in recognition of her commitment to the College. She established the Osborne/Poppett Family Scholarship in 2014 and the Osborne Learning Legacy Scholarship in 2016 to give back to future generations of Warren Wilson students. Throughout her life, Poppett was an advocate for mental health and social well-being in her community.

Jean Williamson Webb, friend of Warren Wilson College, passed on March 29, 2022, at the age of 90. Born and raised in Asheville, Webb grew to be a tireless advocate for the French Broad River and the local environment. As the Executive Director of Quality Forward (now Asheville Greenworks) from 1978 to 1983, she organized and led litter cleanups all around the city and launched early river cleanup days when the French Broad's ecological condition was damaged following decades of industrial misuse and neglect. Webb served as President of the French Broad River Foundation, whose aim was to develop public access to the river and create streamwatch groups for pollution monitoring. Her efforts led to the founding of Riverlink, where she served as Board President for many years. Webb made massive strides toward keeping the French Broad safe for everyone, and laid an essential foundation for the transformation of Asheville's riverfront—a transformation that continues today.

As of July 31, 2022

ASHEVILLE FARM SCHOOL

Ida June Henderson '36
December 8, 2021

ASHEVILLE NORMAL AND TEACHERS COLLEGE

Dorothy Hyde '40
March 30, 2022

Margaret Royster '40
October 8, 2021

Mary Margaret Deyton '43
January 30, 2022

Marjorie Jones '43
May 7, 2022

Ruth Virginia Moore '43
November 29, 2021

DORLAND BELL SCHOOL

Kathleen Shaw
May 26, 2022

WARREN WILSON HIGH SCHOOL

Robert W. Costner '44
July 29, 2021

Jeanne Deschamps '47
November 21, 2021

Linda Lee Leighton '50
November 17, 2021

Ruth Decker '54
November 12, 2021

Jean "Jeannie" Powell '54
March 3, 2022

Naomi "Georgie" Jarrell '55
October 29, 2021

Paris Eugene "Gene" Powell '55
December 5, 2021

WARREN WILSON JUNIOR COLLEGE

Nell Connor '46
December 24, 2021

Dorothy Skipper "Dot" Brown '48
September 27, 2021

Carolyn Poppett '49
May 18, 2022

Lena Wallin '49
June 23, 2022

Martha P. Cobb '51
December 22, 2021

Robert Bruce "Bob" Mills '51
February 15, 2022

Larry Ivan Hattley '52
May 12, 2022

Betty Jean Brown '56
July 26, 2021

Jewell Field '56
June 11, 2022

Madeline Shepherd '56
June 19, 2022

Talma Lou Farris '57
July 15, 2022

Yvonne McCarter '57
April 23, 2022

Ann Elizabeth Bailey '58
August 4, 2021

Judy Self Price '58
December 13, 2021

Nina Lee Prichard '58
December 9, 2021

Patricia "Pat" Fore '60
May 13, 2022

Ruby Ann "Ani" Lele'a '61
July 3, 2021

Nicholas Muratha Mugo '61
February 3, 2022

William Henry "Bill" Rankins '61
May 19, 2022

Sharon Louise Park '62
March 4, 2022

Beula Fraley '63
September 23, 2021

Barbara J. "Bobbie" Wilson '64
July 20, 2021

William Ray Bartlett '65
March 3, 2022

Sarah Francis '65
June 26, 2022

Linda Laughrun '65
May 15, 2022

WARREN WILSON COLLEGE

James J. "Jim" Davies '71
July 22, 2021

Cynthia L. "Cindy" Wilson '77
February 8, 2022

William F. P. "Bill" Coxe '79
June 26, 2022

Jonathan F. "Jon" Kostik '81
April 26, 2022

Scott Eugene "Padre" Jenkins '85
August 1, 2021

David Nakasala Muchemu '87
January 4, 2022

Kristen M. "Kristi" Young '92
January 13, 2022

C. Isaak Dedrick '95
December 19, 2021

Ethna Maeve McKiernan '04
December 12, 2021

EMPLOYEES, VOLUNTEERS, TRUSTEES, AND FRIENDS

Robert L. "Bob" Albright
September 18, 2021

Blan Aldridge
September 14, 2021

Katharine "Kay" Aldridge
November 15, 2021

David Anthony
September 1, 2021

Nada Barnett
April 23, 2022

Jocelyn Smith Baumgarten
December 21, 2021

Jack M. Beaver
October 12, 2021

John E. Becker
February 10, 2022

Douglas W. "Doug" Booth
August 18, 2021

Emily Booth
June 9, 2022

Gladys Brooks
November 3, 2021

Kenneth Broome
January 13, 2022

Nancy E. Brown
November 5, 2021

Julian Buchanan
October 27, 2021

Eugene M. Carr
August 12, 2021

Philip G. Carson
September 27, 2021

James A. Cogswell
November 18, 2021

Barbara Cole
January 13, 2022

Karen Cragnolin
January 22, 2022

John W. Craven
July 8, 2021

Narvel Jim Crawford
September 9, 2021

Mildred Dillard
September 3, 2021

Cathy Easterbrook
November 16, 2021

Bruce Ed Fore
March 31, 2022

Nancy M. Gross
July 9, 2022

Henry A. Harkey
December 1, 2021

David Herbert
March 21, 2022

Ann Hillmann
August 5, 2021

John R. Huggins
July 18, 2022

Ken D. Israel
May 14, 2022

George E. Ivey
March 3, 2022

Robert Kaylor
April 20, 2022

Earl Leland "Lee" Kitts
December 20, 2021

Gene Knoefel
October 18, 2021

Robert S. Lackey
November 20, 2021

Neil C. Leach
July 8, 2021

Hal Mahan
August 22, 2021

Helen Ross Mallon
October 7, 2021

Paul F. Mallon
February 26, 2022

Paul Mann
March 13, 2022

Robert "Bobby" Moffitt
June 5, 2022

IN MEMORIAM CONTINUED

Melvin E. Morton
April 12, 2022

H.K. "Kagwe" Muchane
May 4, 2022

Rochelle Neuringer
May 14, 2022

Ann L. Overbeck
January 28, 2022

Ruth J. Pentes
June 27, 2022

David B. Peterson
August 3, 2021

Julian M. Pleasants
September 7, 2021

George H. Randolph
June 27, 2022

Richard G. "Dick" Robb
November 9, 2021

Glen Robertson
October 21, 2021

Michael Morgan Russell
May 6, 2022

Lora Scott
July 14, 2021

Robert L. Seiler
January 5, 2022

Mary R. Shamble
June 21, 2022

Perry Roger Shippy
April 28, 2022

Adele K. Shuart
December 15, 2021

Joy S. Sigler
February 26, 2022

Howard E. Spanogle
June 4, 2022

Charles V. "Chuck" Stephenson
July 25, 2021

Walter Stroud
July 4, 2021

Michael S. Tanner
August 15, 2021

Arline Taylor
July 24, 2021

Norretta L. Taylor
May 6, 2022

William Traughber
October 16, 2021

Mildred Wald
October 17, 2021

Mark P. Ward
July 13, 2022

Alton J. "Bo" Watts
August 1, 2021

Jean W. Webb
March 29, 2022

Janet W. Weil
October 18, 2021

Irene White
February 6, 2022

Roberta "Bobbie" Williams
March 30, 2022

Alfred C. Woodcock
May 3, 2022

James W. G. "Jim" Woollcott
February 9, 2022



Unfolding Transitions Cover Artwork

Associate Professor of Art Lara Nguyen, MFA, created the cover art for this magazine by scanning several pieces of origami, then digitally collaging them for the final composition. On her inspiration for this piece, Nguyen said:

“Unfolding from the flames, a gemini phoenix parts its paper wings and presents itself against a tessellated sky. When beauty is conceived from pain, art is born. With this cover, I’m thinking about our alumni from the past 10 years, what they grew up with, what options and obstacles they have now that maybe previous generations did not. I’m thinking of how the Class of 2020 had their last semester cut short, and how the Art seniors didn’t get a final exhibition due to a global pandemic. How we rise up to any occasion is important—not in any hypothetical sense of “success,” instead I’m talking about intent. How do we personally, professionally, and publicly show up for one another, and, more importantly, how do we each and every day show up for ourselves?”

Madison Sings '22 Won the Pfaff Cup

Madison Sings '22 received the 2022 Alton F. Pfaff Cup, Warren Wilson College's highest honor given to a graduating senior. During her time at Warren Wilson, she built a strong and diverse academic record, advocated for social and environmental justice, played lacrosse, and served in multiple leadership roles.

Sings graduated with a double major in Environmental Studies with an Environmental Policy and Justice concentration, and in History and Political Science with a Public Policy concentration. You can learn more about her Capstone Projects for these majors in the story *From First Year Seminar to Capstone Project*, found on page 19.

While serving on the Environmental and Social Justice Crew, Sings collected data for STARS (Sustainability Tracking Assessments and Rating Systems) around campus. The school received a GOLD rating because of these collection efforts. The crew also spearheaded the initiative to have former President Lynn Morton, Ph.D., sign the Higher Education Carbon Pricing Endorsement Initiative. Morton was the first college president in North Carolina to do so.

In addition, Sings led the Women's Lacrosse team, was a Resident Assistant for three semesters, and served as a Peer Group Leader for an environmental-justice-themed First Year Seminar. She served as one of two students on the campus-wide Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Advisory Committee, and she was a member of the Alma Mater Committee whose purpose was to remove colonizing language from the school's Alma Mater.

Since 1942, the Alton F. Pfaff Cup has been awarded to a graduating senior who demonstrates integrity, common sense, a willingness to work, and a commitment to growth and progress. Pfaff was a 1929 graduate of the Asheville Farm School. He served as President of the Warren Wilson College Alumni Association and a member of the Board of Trustees.

The Pfaff Cup is awarded to students who excel in all areas of the College's academic program: academics, work, community engagement, and campus life. Nominations are solicited from the community, and a committee of faculty and staff chooses a finalist to appear on a ballot given to all employees who vote for a winner. ■



Madison Sings '22 received the 2022 Alton F. Pfaff Cup, Warren Wilson College's highest honor given to a graduating senior. Photo by Dan Gold.



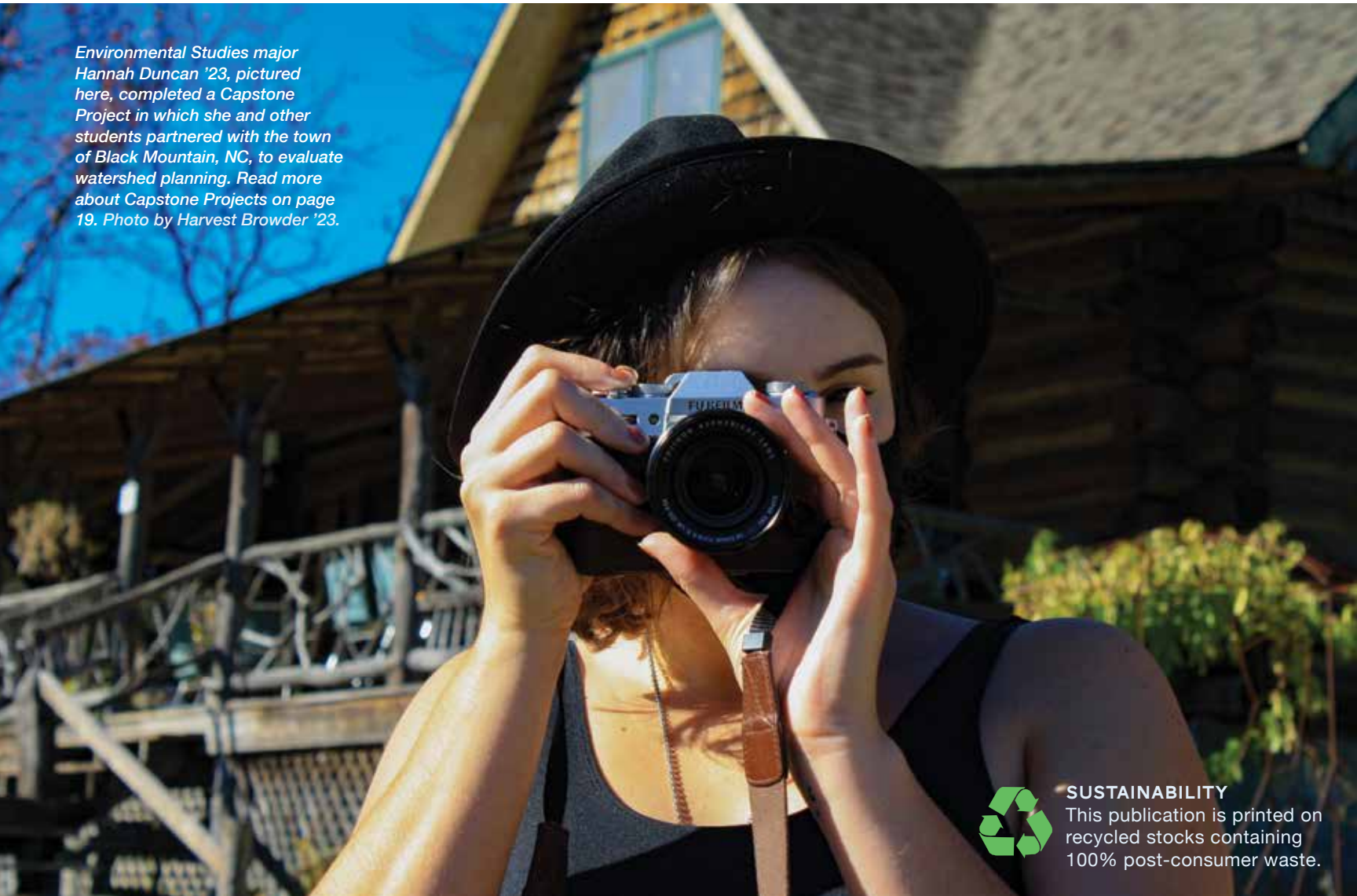


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Environmental Studies major Hannah Duncan '23, pictured here, completed a Capstone Project in which she and other students partnered with the town of Black Mountain, NC, to evaluate watershed planning. Read more about Capstone Projects on page 19. Photo by Harvest Browder '23.



SUSTAINABILITY
This publication is printed on recycled stocks containing 100% post-consumer waste.